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ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN THE

FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN BOLTON Mass.

JULY 4th, 1876,

AT THE

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE; AND ALSO IN
OBSERVANCE OF THE

138TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN:

By RICHARD S. EDES.

TOGETHER WITH OTHER PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO
THE SAME OCCASION,

WITH AN APPENDIX

CLINTON:

PRINTED BY W. J. COULTER, COURANT OFFICE,

1877.



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BOLTON

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,

Fourth of July,

1876.



153000

A GRANT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BOLTON.

WHEREAS the Southeasterly part of the town of Lancaster, is competently filled with inhabitants who labour under great difficulty by reason they live very remote from the place of public worship, in said town: and having addressed this court that they may be set off, a distinct and separate township, whereunto the inhabitants of said town by their vote have manifested their consent: — Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, —

That the easterly part of the town of Lancaster be and hereby is set off from said town of Lancaster and erected into a separate and distinct township by the name of Bolton [Appendix, F], according to the following boundaries, viz: Northeasterly upon Harvard, Easterly upon Stow, Southeasterly upon Marlborough, Southerly upon Westborough, and Westerly upon Lancaster, By a line running near a South and North point parallel with the West line of said township of Lancaster at four miles distance therefrom. Agreeable to a vote of the said town passed the first day of March, 1735.

And that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are vested with all those powers, privileges, immunities that the inhabitants of other towns within this province are or ought by law to be vested with.

Provided that the said town of Bolton shall be liable and subject to the payment of their proportionable part of the town of Lancaster's province tax, and County tax for the present year, as though they were not by this act separated from it.

In the House of Representatives June 23rd. 1738.

Ordered that Mr. John Whitney, a principal inhabitant of a new town, lately erected out of the town of Lancaster, in the county of Worcester, be, and hereby is, fully authorized and empowered, to assemble the Freeholders and other qualified voters there, as soon as may be, in some convenient place in said town, in order for their choosing a Town Clerk and all other Town Officers, to stand till the Anniversary Meeting of said town in March next.

Sent up for concurrence,

Adopted 24th June J. QUINCEY, Speaker.

In council, June 27, 1738. Read and Concurred,

J. WILLARD, Sec'y.

Consented to,

J. BELCHER.

Copy examined,

JOSIAH WILLARD, Secr'y.

Per order,

JACOB HOUGHTON, Town Clerk.



F Edes, Richard Sullivan, /: 1810-1877.
844098

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Address delivered in the First parish church
in Bolton, July 4th, 1876, at the centennial cele-
bration of the anniversary of American indepen-
dence... Clinton, Mass., 1877.

SHelf CARD

A 986



INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

At a legal meeting of the Town of Bolton, held on Monday, April 3d, 1876, it was voted that a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to make arrangements for a Centennial Celebration on the 4th of July, 1876: said arrangements to be without expense to the town.

The Moderator appointed as members of this committee: N. P. GILMAN, R. S. EDES, B. A. EDWARDS, N. A. NEWTON, and F. E. WHITCOMB. They subsequently organized by choosing N. P. Gilman as Chairman, B. A. Edwards as Secretary, N. A. Newton as Treasurer, and F. E. Whitcomb as Soliciting Committee. (The expenses of the celebration, amounting to about one hundred and fifty dollars, were met by a general subscription.)

At a town meeting held June 26th, ROSWELL BARRETT, J. D. HURLBUT, and PAUL WHITCOMB were added to the committee. ENOCH C. PIERCE, Sergt. Co. F, 13th Regt. Mass. Vols., was chosen Chief Marshal, and S. F. EDWARDS, Chief Decorator.

The exercises of the Fourth were held in the meeting-house of the First Congregational Church, at ten o'clock A. M. After the performance by the Hudson Brass Band of suitable music, the President of the Day made a brief opening address, in substance as follows:

FELLOW CITIZENS:—We meet here to celebrate the festival of our nation's birthday. All over our land Americans are today observing the one hundreth anniversary of our country's life. But we are mindful here of a double duty. Our great republic is made up of many little republics; because of these the nation came into existence. The New England township paved the way for the independence of the whole country in such a degree that "in 1650 the Republic was already virtually established." Of one of these small democracies we now observe, with but a few day's delay, the one hundred and thirty-eighth anniversary. The founders of this town, as well as all who built this nation, were men of a true religious faith. "Our civilization," De Tocqueville has well said, "is the result of two distinct elements, which in other places have been in frequent hostility, but here in America have been admirably incorporated and combined with each other, the spirit of religion and the spirit of liberty." Our Puritan forefathers did not "make religion twelve and the world thirteen." Remembering them, remembering the motto on their pine-tree flag, remembering the fortunes of a hundred years, we most fitly open our exercises today with an "appeal to Heaven."

Prayer was then offered by the Rev. THOMAS T. STONE, D. D., and the American Hymn sung by a select choir. "That noble Declaration,



which, written in words whose memory can never perish, ought to be hung up in the nursery of every king and blazoned on the porch of every royal palace," was read by Rev. B. A. EDWARDS, and the Star Spangled Banner sung by children from one of the public schools.

Introducing the Orator of the Day, the President said :

FELLOW CITIZENS :—The Tree of Liberty under which we gratefully gather, whose leaves are for "the healing of the nation," has many roots and rootlets. Here among these hills of Bolton, one rootlet fastened itself in the soil, to draw from it sap and sustenance for the parent trunk. In a fertile earth, beneath a kindly sky, the little root did its necessary helpful work. Sustained by it and by a thousand like it, the tree grew and flourished. We are fortunate in having among us a fellow-citizen, whom your committee unanimously chose to address you today, as the fittest person to describe the course of life through which this Bolton rootlet of the American Tree of Liberty has passed."

The Address followed. Upon its conclusion, and after the singing of Hail Columbia by the choir, and of America by the audience, the benediction was given by Rev. J. W. CHICKERING, D. D., a former pastor of the Hillside Church in Bolton.

The dinner was laid on tables erected under the trees in front of the church. After due attention had been paid to "the physical basis of life," the chairman called the company to order with a few remarks, and then proceeded to call upon gentlemen present to respond to appropriate sentiments. Responses were made by Rev. Mr. EDES, for Lancaster; by Rev. Mr. HOUGHTON, for Berlin; by J. T. JOSLIN, Esq., for Hudson; by A. R. POWERS, Esq., for Bolton; by Rev. Dr. CHICKERING, for the churches; by Rev. Mr. EDWARDS, for the schools; by Dr. ROBERT T. EDES, of Boston, for the United States Navy; and by F. E. WHITCOMB, Esq., for the Farmers' Club.

Letters were received, and the majority of them read during the after-dinner exercises, from Hon. GEORGE BANCROFT, THOS. WENTWORTH HIGGINSON, WALDO HIGGINSON, Br. Gen. THOS. SHERWIN, Rev. GEO. W. HOSMER, D. D., Rev. GEO. S. BALL, Rev. E. C. L. BROWN, Rev. F. L. HOSMER, and Hon. WILLIAM STONE, Attorney-General of South Carolina.

Fireworks and a concert on the Common closed this highly-successful celebration of the birthday of the town and the nation.

At the annual meeting of the town, held March 5th, 1877, it was

Voted, To raise and appropriate for printing the address delivered on the Centennial Celebration, July 4th, 1876, together with the other proceedings connected with said celebration, the sum of one hundred dollars.

Voted, That every family in town receive one copy of such pamphlet gratis.

Voted, To send one copy to every non-resident tax-payer.

In compliance with this vote, the Address is now presented by the committee to the citizens of the town.



ADDRESS.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

LET us begin by taking for granted the main facts of history, down to the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth, and down to a period more than a century later. Let us observe at once, that at the times and in the place to which our attention must be turned to-day, those who went before *us*, even as were those who went before *them*, and as those on the stage *now*, were "members one of another," catching each others' thoughts, imitating each others' examples, influencing each others' conduct—not only as so many individuals, but as communities, 'as towns, and in other large ways. That ideas circulate like the blood, probably all will admit. General history is a common multiple, to which many local histories may contribute; and given a general product, and some of its determined factors, the others, comprised in any particular local memories or traditions, are easily to be ascertained.

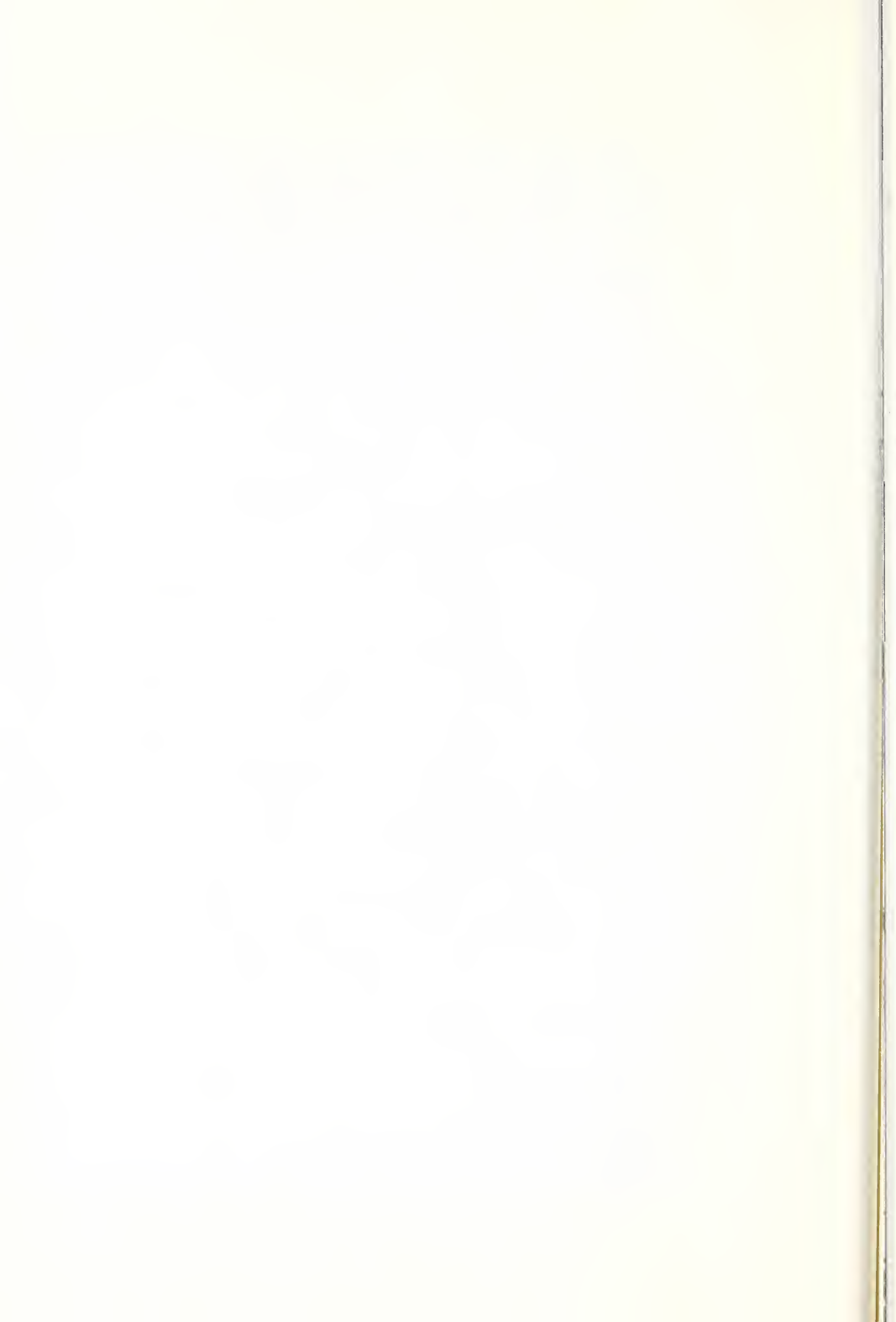
Or, to express our thought in another way, if general history present the larger action of the piece, the chief actors in the drama; local history may furnish the side lights, and the characters which, though called subordinate, may be none the less necessary to the completeness of the whole, to the full working out of the plot. Or, leaving the abstract, and coming into the concrete, to know New England you must know those "little democracies," its towns; and so if you would study to advantage the history of any one town, it may be well to start with some general ideas of the whole of which it forms a fractional part.



Impressed with thoughts such as these, which it is needless to expand, I ask you to go back with me for a brief while, to a little more than a century and a quarter ago, to A. D. 1738, viz. to the time when Bolton become an independent township,—while I sketch, in a very general way, a picture of the prevailing condition of things as it was in the small country towns of Massachusetts Bay.

The country hereabouts had been becoming settled in a sort for a little more than a century :—slowly opening from an utter wilderness inhabited only by savages and wild beasts, and spreading into communities having some of the ruder arts of life, and characterized by habits of law and order. But only here and there had clearings been made in the woods, and settlements started. After many conflicts *with* them, many sackings, burnings and massacres suffered *from* them—in which this town then a portion of Lancaster suffered with the rest—the aboriginal inhabitants were still far from being altogether banished or exterminated. [Appendix, A]. They lingered about in various localities; according to their nomadic habits, found their way from place to place; had special seats assigned them whenever—which was but seldom—they wandered of a Sunday into the houses of worship; and were quite often to be seen by the kitchen hearth as the housewife cooked her dinner, or sitting by the fire while her baby slumbered in the cradle. Though much enfeebled, in broken remnants, consumed under the combined effects of their own improvident habits, wide-spreading pestilences and epidemics, and the “fire water” introduced among them by the whites, the Indians were slowly wasting away before the march of civilization, like the proud forests around them, once all their own.

The native animals, hardly a grade lower in the scale than the savages—the wolves, the bears, the wild cats, the deer—continued to inhabit the woods and the fields, as the salmon and shad did the streams. Their numbers were so



large as to keep the farmer on the alert to protect his flocks and herds, and in his leisure hours, whenever he could find or make them, to furnish him with the exciting, and frequently dangerous, pleasures of the chase. If the itch of office overcame him, and he would act for the protection of the friendly and valuable creatures, or for the extermination of the hostile ones, he might, as deer or fish reeve, or in some similar capacity, as forerunner of the modern field-driver or hog-reeve, assume a badge of dignity among the worthies of the borough, or exercise his forensic powers before the town meeting in calling aloud to arms, to arms—not to be sure against a human foe, but against another, of which some of us learnt in the early Latin exercise “*triste lupus stabulis*.”

As to the roads of those times, what were they? Structures of the rudest engineering, and hardly better than to be compared with the paths made by the moose in the winter's snow, or by the beaver to the side of his dam; scarcely more than cow or sheep paths through the woods, and wandering over hill and dale, bog and plain, in the strangest fashion. Mails, daily, weekly, or even monthly there were none; though messengers on horseback with saddle bags, at irregular intervals wide apart, sometimes found their way over the rough and lonely byways, and penetrated from settlement to settlement. Newspapers—if such existed of any but the most diminutive proportions and all but utter poverty of news—were hardly to be seen even in the *larger towns*; and back here in the interior settlements must have been the rarest of all rare birds. [Appendix, B]. Very few comparatively—in the times we are adverting to, in 1738—could make out to read, fewer still to write. As the saw mill driven by water and superseding the saw-pit and hand sawyer-labor, was coming slowly into use, dwelling houses regularly timbered, boarded, clapboarded and shingled, were just beginning to be built—of the material so abundantly at hand; but a house with proper casements



and with windows glazed throughout was to be found only in the larger towns and among the richest of the inhabitants. Franklin, though born, was not as yet signalized by chimnies that would carry smoke ; nor Rumford to be reckoned among the household gods by the production of apparatus that would heat apartments throughout in cold weather. The parlor of a New England house—if any such apartment existed—presented every variety of temperature from torrid to frigid, and as to its chambers they were but little if any better in winter time than ice-houses. At certain seasons of the year as one approached any house of the period, he would hear the buzz and rattle of the spinning wheel or the loom ; the wife with her assistants spinning and weaving the wool and the flax which the husband raised ; and both they and their children clad in the homespun which had been woven either at their own home or in that of some neighbor.

Vehicles for domestic use were hardly known, even at a much later period ; and when Sunday came, both husband and wife mounted the same horse, he in the saddle, she on the pillion behind him, with arm lovingly around his waist, rode off together (some four, five, six, or eight miles as the case might be) to meeting : rode, let us say, from what is now Hudson, then a part of Bolton, to what is now Lancaster, Old Common ;—though not as now, remember, by a direct road through the centre of the town but by the “ Bay road ” as it was then and years afterwards called, a winding path which carried them upon Wattoquottoc Hill. [Appendix, C].

And as to the churches of that day—no that won't do—the “ meeting-houses,” what rude structures they were ! how far removed from the luxurious, painted, carpeted, cushioned, warmed, “ dimly-religious lighted ” structures to which we now resort ! oftentimes without plastering on the inside, oftentimes without pews, and with rough hewn boards for seats, frequently used for shelter by the passing traveller,



or by the cattle when exposed to the violence of one of our autumnal or wintry storms:—no stoves or furnaces for heating—the winds of heaven admitted freely through rattling windows, and many a crack and crevice. And yet, for all that, they were doubtless as much “houses of God” and “gates of heaven,” and furnished as friendly a “shadow of a rock in a weary land” as any of our more stately and adorned modern edifices; and what was wanting in the temperature of the surrounding air was made up in the warmth of heart found within the bosoms of the worshippers.

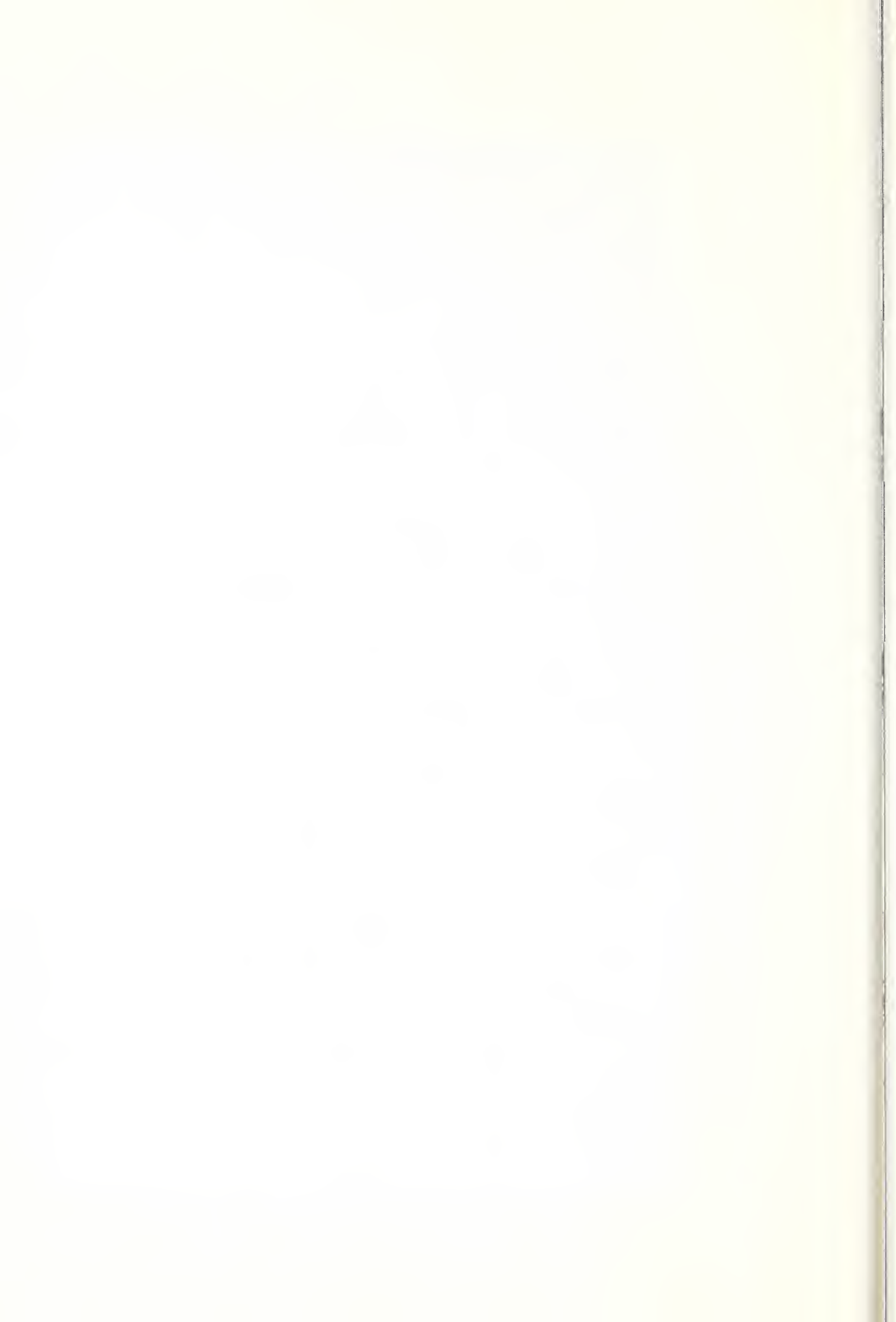
Not always though, as truth compels the cautious and impartial historian to add. For it would sometimes happen then, even as in these degenerate times, that people would fall asleep, during the services. Paterfamilias, overcome by week-day labors in the haying-field, or wearied by his exercises on hard-trotting Dobbin, as in the sharp winter's air he rode to meeting with his wife on the pillion behind him, would sometimes, as seventeenthly or nineteenthly was under discussion, find his eyes getting heavy, and—sad to state—at length be caught napping, it might be even snoring. Or may be, exhausted from the spinning wheel or the loom, and from being up nearly all night before with little Tommy in pangs of colic from having eaten green apples, materfamilias would be seen with her head bobbing about in a strange fashion from side to side. Or, perchance, foresaid Tom, on the sly, in concert with sister Polly, would be caught catching flies, or building houses with the hymn-books—for “boys would be boys” in those days, even as men and women were human then as now—well, whenever any of these things happened, what followed? The offenders brought down on themselves the rod of an officer, called a tithing man, often to be found in meeting-houses of the day, an officer armed with fearful powers, and a no less fearful weapon to enforce them, to wit, a pole or wand some five or six feet in length, with which in feline fashion he stole about the house from seat



to seat, arousing one here, touching up another there, and careful to see that every one was kept attentive, and that the preacher's discourse was not wasted on empty air or drowsy ears. Another of his functions was to stop travellers passing on the highway on Sundays and question them as to whether they were journeying on works of necessity or mercy: if not, to detain them till after sundown, or till the sabbath was considered passed. [Appendix, D].

The parson of those times, who shall worthily describe him?—perhaps the greatest man of all, not even "the Squire" excepted,—with his awe-inspiring wig, and no less overwhelming cocked hat, smalls, and cane! And the Sunday services, too, with their sermons extending to seventeenthlies or twentiethlies, and judged of, in the order of merit, largely by their length;—with prayers of equally portentous extent:—all sat and stood through in stoveless houses in winter, in BLINDLESS ones in summer. Who shall attempt—save a Mrs. Stowe—to portray in what spirit of martyrdom and long suffering they were endured!

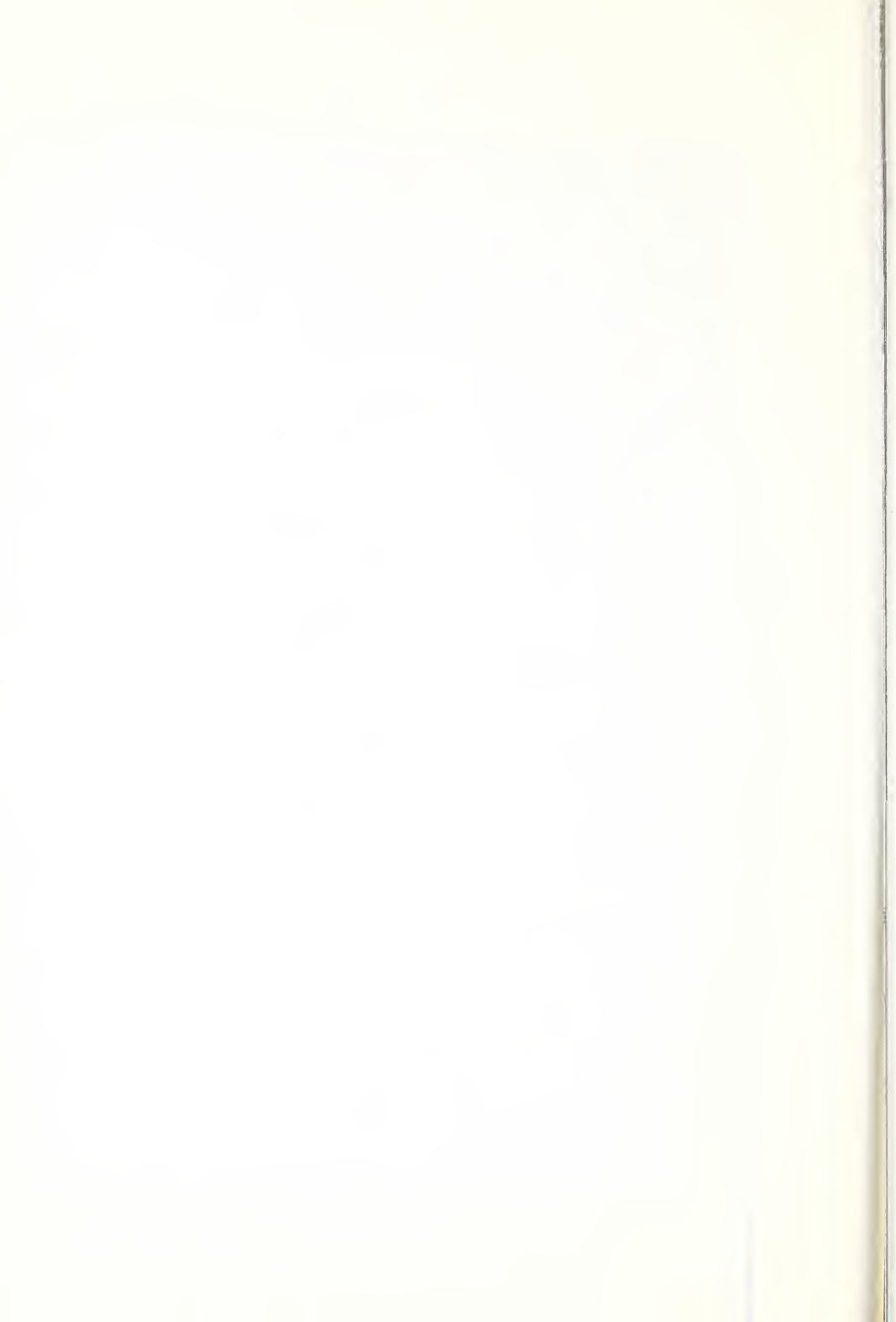
Imagine a New England winter as it was one hundred and thirty-eight or one hundred and fifty years ago! All that should go into the picture time will not allow me so much as to touch. The solitude, the utter sequestration of the little clearing in the woods! the arctic cold out o' doors, the great roaring fire of logs in the wide-throated chimney within, the family huddling around it, protected from draughts of air as much as could be by the huge settle; the horses and cows outside the house, without shelter trembling in the keen blast;—in spring, even at a much later period than this, when barns of some sort were provided for them, so weak from eating poor swale hay that they could not lift themselves to their feet without help. Imagine the feelings of the housewife, when as she was cooking her noontide meal, or in the early dusk preparing the supper for her husband when he should return exhausted from labors in the woods, she saw steal in, instead of him, a band



of drunken Indians ; and was compelled, in terror of her life, to give them food, or to minister to their thirst for the dreadful "fire-water" which would make them still more utterly savage and reckless ! Imagine this, and many more particulars by which this general sketch might be extended, and our idea of the times made more complete ; but I must remember what is before us, and hasten to strike into that local history to which what has been advanced is preparatory.

In general, such was the Massachusetts of 1738 in its more retired portions ; such a sketch of the condition of almost any one of her small towns ; such was Bolton. Worcester was hardly a hamlet, with a few straggling houses and scarcely no trade ; and Boston, now the great metropolitan city of all New England, with palatial warehouses and numerous lines of travel and modes of industry and schools of art, but a small trading village so far removed from the ways and thoughts of the great world as to be as much out of mind as it was out of sight ! [Appendix, E].

But now observe one most important aspect of affairs. Rough, unsightly, hardly reclaimed from the wilderness as the whole country was, ignorant as the people in many respects, rude as were their lives, one lesson was being most thoroughly learned ; learned, doubtless, as it has been learned by no other people on the face of the earth—the lesson namely of self-reliance, of self-government. Of the hardy Anglo-Saxon stock, or they would not have been here ; deeply imbued in the religious faith in its severest form of their old home in England ; bringing with them across the seas the heroic virtues of their English and Puritan ancestry, but cut off by a wide and stormy ocean from all intimate connexion with the "mother country" (or the "*father-land*," as now in German fashion we have learnt to say) ; thrown on their own resources ; forced by circumstances to think, to act, to legislate for themselves ;—our



sturdy forefathers were learning in the school of hardship to stand alone, beginning to throw off many of the hampering ways of worship to rank, of blind observance of custom which would have clung to them doubtless if they had staid at the old home; learning many of the mysteries of that great art of government which heretofore was supposed to be entrusted to the hands of a heaven-born few; and to be exercised only by heads which had received a special unction from above. Happy then the *wilds* which brought them this favored knowledge! Blessed the calamities, the hardships, the rough and unattractive lives which conveyed to them and their descendants the glorious revelation from which such mighty results were to come.

I must not dwell on such points tempting as they may be. Sufficient if we observe them in passing; I must come, without delay, to what more particularly concerns us as citizens or friends of this particular town.

About the time to which we have been adverting, about A. D. 1738, or a little before, the inhabitants of the East Precinct of Lancaster were beginning to feel that the clothes of early childhood were rather too tight a fit, and could be patched and extended no more; that they must have an entirely new suit; that they could no longer, every first day of the week, take the winding "Bay road" over Wattoquotoc hill to attend meeting on Lancaster Old Common (where the meeting-house then stood):—so they commenced the movements of secession, began the work which Berlin and Hudson afterwards repeated towards Bolton. But why should I tell the story for them, when they are so well able to tell it for themselves? Here, then, I open their record-book, and copy portions of the statements I find there. Would that I could copy them in a hand-writing as splendid as that of Jacob Houghton their first town clerk—a hand-writing which if it were reproduced in our modern Houghton School in competition for a prize would surely carry off the palm!



A GRANT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BOLTON.

WHEREAS the Southeasterly part of the town of Lancaster, is competently filled with inhabitants who labour under great difficulty by reason they live very remote from the place of public worship, in said town: and having addressed this court that they may be set off, a distinct and separate township, whereunto the inhabitants of said town by their vote have manifested their consent: — Be it therefore enacted by his Excellency the Governour, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, —

That the easterly part of the town of Lancaster be and hereby is set off from said town of Lancaster and erected into a separate and distinct township by the name of Bolton [Appendix, F], according to the following boundaries, viz: Northeasterly upon Harvard, Easterly upon Stow, Southeasterly upon Marlborough, Southerly upon Westborough, and Westerly upon Lancaster, By a line running near a South and North point parallel with the West line of said township of Lancaster at four miles distance therefrom. Agreeable to a vote of the said town passed the first day of March, 1735.

And that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are vested with all those powers, privileges, immunities that the inhabitants of other towns within this province are or ought by law to be vested with.

Provided that the said town of Bolton shall be liable and subject to the payment of their proportionable part of the town of Lancaster's province tax, and County tax for the present year, as though they were not by this act separated from it.

In the House of Representatives June 23rd, 1738.

Ordered that Mr. John Whitney, a principal inhabitant of a new town, lately erected out of the town of Lancaster, in the county of Worcester, be, and hereby is, fully authorized and empowered, to assemble the Freeholders and other qualified voters there, as soon as may be, in some convenient place in said town, in order for their choosing a Town Clerk and all other Town Officers, to stand till the Anniversary Meeting of said town in March next.

Sent up for concurrence,

Adopted 24th June J. QUINCEY, Speaker.

In council, June 27, 1738, Read and Concurred,

J. WILLARD, Sec'y.

Consented to,

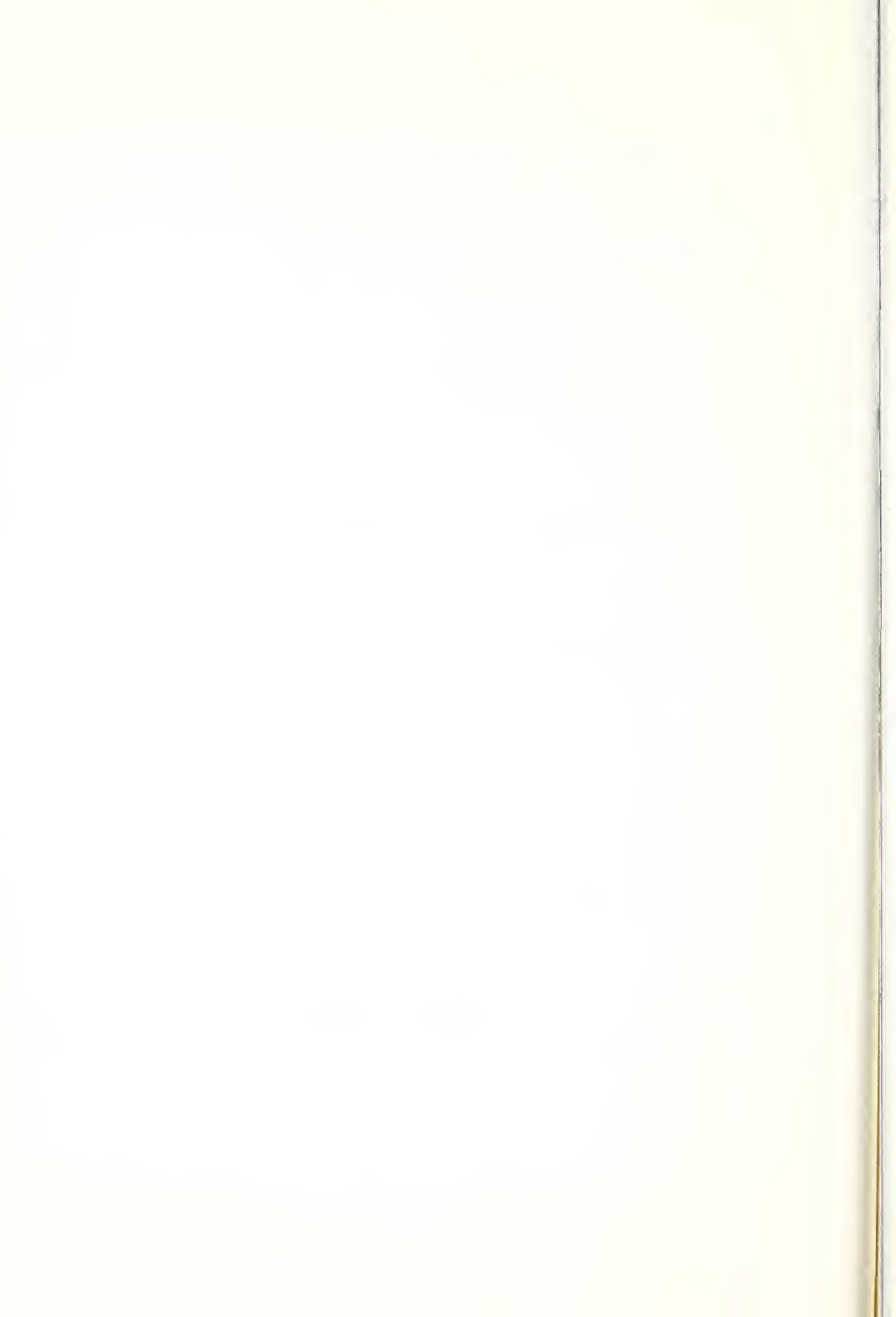
J. BELCHER.

Copy examined,

JOSEPH WILLARD, Sec'y.

Per order,

JACOB HOUGHTON, Town Clerk.



August 14, 1738.

I have executed the within order according to due manner and form.

JOHN WHITNEY.

Per order,

JACOB HOUGHTON, Clerk.

BOLTON, August, 14th, 1738.

The inhabitants of said town being met at the house of Mr. Thomas Sawyer made choice of JAMES KEYES to be their Moderator.

1. JACOB HOUGHTON was chosen Town Clerk and Sworn.
2. They voted to choose five Select men.
3. They chose, JACOB HOUGHTON, JAMES KEYES, HENRY HOUGHTON, JOHN PRIEST, and CAPT. JONAS HOUGHTON, Select men.
4. They chose DAVID WHITCOMB, Constable and he was sworn.
5. They chose JOSIAH RICHARDSON, and WILLIAM KEYES, Surveyors (in the original, spelt, Survairs,) of Highways, and they were sworn.

JAMES KEYES, Moderator.

Per order, JACOB HOUGHTON, Clerk.

Having now got our ship off the stocks and fairly launched; or, as we are speaking of an inland town — inasmuch as we have harnessed up our team, oiled the wheels, taken on the load, and started for the journey; — remarking the while, what a long stretch of road lies between us and the terminus of our travel, we see it will not do to employ ox, or even horse-power, but must spring into a sort of locomotive balloon, or some other flying machine, and skim along with it as if, high upborne in air, we were scudding with the clouds over the face of a continent. As, in the brief time allowed me for so long a work, to mention names or describe individuals connected with important proceedings, or at any rate many of them, will be out of the question; or to verify statements by giving dates, or making extracts from the books will be equally so, I shall not often make the attempt, happy if I can but so much as touch the more significant eras and events. [Appendix G].

Bolton, then, is now started as a separate township; and after its primary meeting for organization, its first care was to set about building a meeting-house (town and parish in those days were pretty much the same thing, or, in other

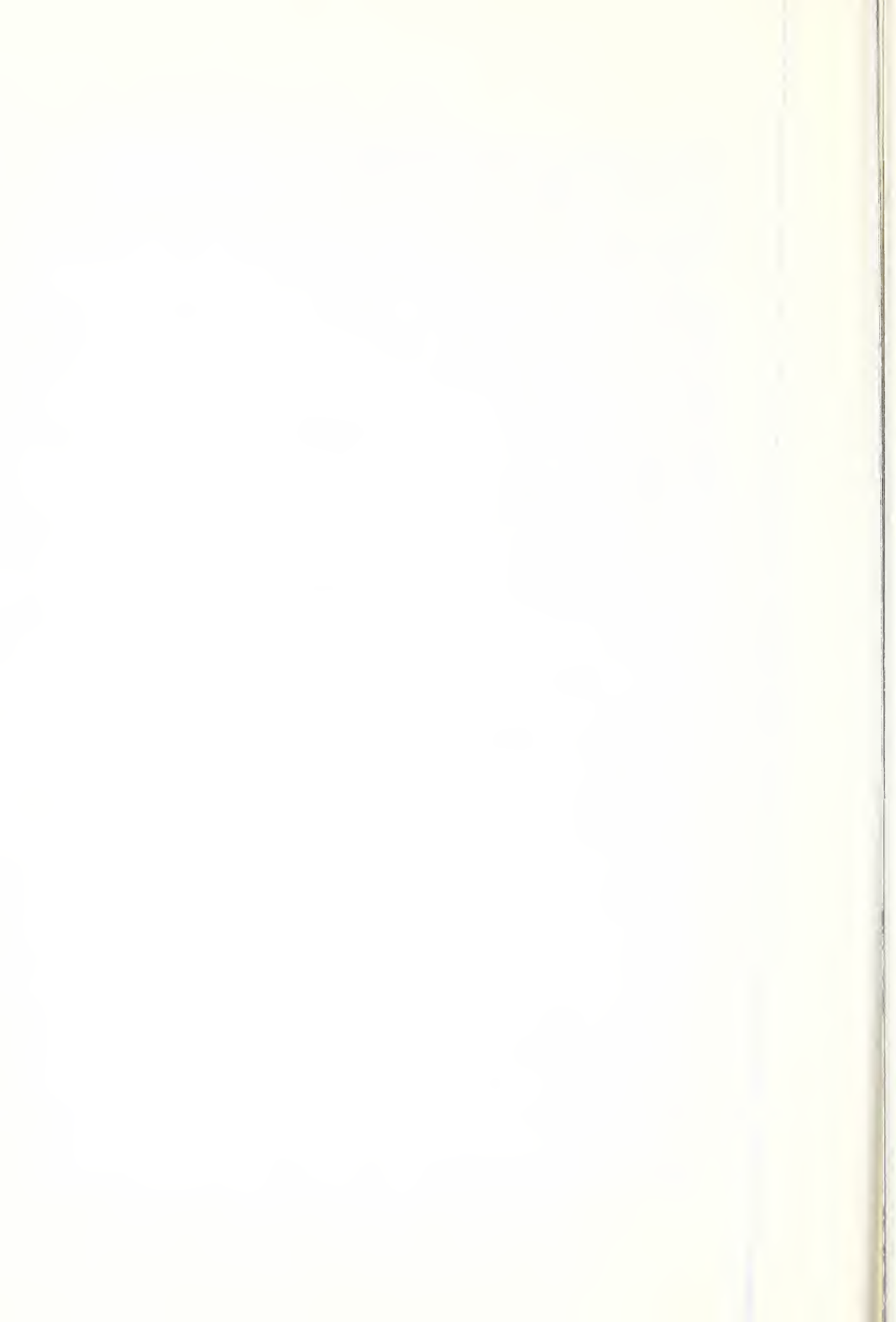


words, the town was the municipality considered in its civil and political aspect, while the parish was the same municipality in its relations with religious faith and ecclesiastical organization).

It would take much more time than you would be willing to allow to attempt anything like a full account of the meetings, the considerings, the reconsiderings, the votes, the counter votes, to which the movement gave rise. Human nature was not so different then from what it is today; or from what it was in the great Savior's day; nor were the town meetings of one hundred and thirty years ago so unlike those of A. D. 1876; nor the then young town of Bolton so dissimilar from its modern district of No. 8, as it was a few weeks ago, No. 2, as it is now in the present year of grace. It is enough then to say, that while on the question of building a new meeting-house there was no dispute, on the point where it should stand there was much diversity of opinion and feeling; one party seeming to think that only on this mountain — this little knoll — could the Father be worshipped, while another party, with equal earnestness, contended that solely at some small Jerusalem, a trifle nearer home, ought men to worship. The question was purely one relating to locality, and had no reference whatever to matters involving religious doctrine or observance.

Human strifes, however, like all other things human, must have an end; so that at length it was settled where the new structure should be placed, viz.: just this side of where now runs (runs so that all may read) our now flourishing Lancaster R. R.; just this side of where quite recently stood our old school-house No. 1, where now stands the picturesque station-house of the railroad aforesaid, so much admired by all travellers to and from the Tunnel. [Appendix, II].

What sort of a house it was may be inferred from one or two votes having reference to it, or discussions concerning



it of which we find record: Thus from time to time committees were chosen "to seat the meeting-house," as it was called, i. e., to assign seats where different families or individuals should sit. Need I add that this was most difficult and delicate duty to perform; and that the heart-burnings, and jealousies, and small griefs that followed were legion. Mr. A. felt that his velvet smalls should not have been assigned to that knotty pitch-pine board; Mrs. B., the 'squire's, or the store-keeper's wife, that her last new linen dress, fresh from England, the envy and admiration of the whole town, should not have been buried in obscurity under the gallery stairs: and the widow C. was justly indignant that her becoming weeds were tucked away on a back seat where they would be completely out of sight. So it happened that the unhappy committee for seating the house, after performing their duty could sometimes not find a seat obscure enough nor dark enough wherein to hide their diminished heads; but had to "take it," as the boys say, all round. "With the most ardent wishes to please and endeavors to that end," they but seldom succeeded; too often making the sad mistake — not unknown even in these virtuous times — of allowing money bags to preponderate over everything else, while a thousand other little vanities, male and female, so liable to beset "poor human natur," weighed in the balances flew up highly, and kicked the beam.

Such was "seating of the meeting-house," one indication of the times. Another we find in the question, which comes up in town meeting, shall the meeting-house be plastered on the inside, when it is decided, after some discussion, that it shall not be: and many years after that, we get perhaps a larger glimpse of the condition of things, of the occasions which awakened the interest of people, when, on the eve of an approaching ordination, a committee is appointed in town meeting to shore up the galleries that they may be able to withstand the great weight of the



throng, from far and near, within the compass of thirty miles or more, which it is expected on that day will fill them.

The old meeting-house to which these remarks have reference, stood (some ninety years ago) on the little knoll just this side of the railroad crossing on the Berlin road; but at length, about 1790, it began to show signs of decay and insecurity; and the town too began to feel ambitious of a larger and more sightly structure. We must pass the time with barely a glance. The former process is repeated. Articles appear in the town warrants, shall a new meeting-house be built? and the question is discussed forth and back, with much feeling, and no little debate is stirred up as to whether one should be built at all, and as to where it should stand when built; till at length this time all were united in rather a novel and unexpected way. On a certain Sunday afternoon in the dog-days, when the minister was in the midst of his afternoon's sermon, and the drowsy members of the congregation had composed themselves comfortably to their several naps, a tempest which had some time been gathering suddenly burst forth in fury, the black clouds hung low overhead, the storm pelted, the lightning flashed, the thunder growled, and a powerful gust springing up at the same time, so that "the corners of the house were shaken as with a rushing mighty wind," the timbers of the edifice cracked and groaned like the ribs of a ship when struggling in the sea and buffeted by the waves. Women screamed and fainted, and men and boys, glad of the chance, scuttled out at the door.

The moral effect in the change of feeling, in the reconciliation of discordant views, was all that could be hoped for. At the next town meeting, a vote to build a new house was procured without difficulty, and thus arose the structure in which we are now assembled, finished and dedicated in 1793; remodelled in 1844; and let me add —



though repaired at intervals since then, and its whole style changed, never re-shingled—nor needing it from that day to this. A commentary, this fact, on the solid, faithful work of those times—a commentary no less significant on the character of the contractors and builders.

Wishing not to mix up topics, I have passed by one, an interesting one, having an important bearing on the future history of the town, in order to give it such place by itself as time will allow. The settlement of a minister, a matter of far more grave import in those times of less light and knowledge, but deeper religious sentiment, than now; an event preceded by examinations and fasts and other observances, and enlisting a vastly wider range of sympathetic interest than a modern call and settlement. It is a topic too large for anything like proper consideration on such an occasion as today's, and not suited for a gathering such as brings us together. I take it up in its local aspect exclusively, and shall pass it as rapidly as I can.

Quite as important as should they build a meeting-house, was the question should they settle a minister. In due time—after having its appropriate share of town meetings, and anxious and sometimes heated discussion, to say nothing of conferences with neighboring ministers, together with fasts and so on, and long hearing of the candidate—the question appears to be settled, and Rev. Mr. Thomas Goss (they could hardly, in those days, give the minister too many verbal manifestations of respect, or too much sugar in his tea) was invited to take charge of the Bolton church and parish. But this, so far as the call was concerned, though it appears to be the end of the matter, was not in point of fact the conclusion. Though at a meeting held Dec. 15, 1740, the town had chosen Mr. Thos. Goss to be their minister, and had voted that "if the gentleman called to the work of the ministry do accept the call, and upon examination by the ministers of the gospel do appear to be orthodox and qualified for the pastoral office, then to



have the sum of £380 in old tenour settlement, or that which is equivalent to it" [Appendix, I], and though it had been voted at the same meeting, to give the candidate as a "stated sallery, to be paid yearly, £170 in bills of the old tenour, to be regulated by Indian corn at 8s. per bushel, and Rie at 10s. per bu., and Beef at 6 pence per lb.," it seems, nevertheless, even after having got so far, the people could not agree, and the proceedings of the meetings just referred to were set aside as not legal; and another meeting was held on the 3d Feb., 1741, at which another period of probation was assigned to the candidate; and it was decided on to hear two other candidates, viz.: Mr. Belcher Handcock and Mr. Ebenezer Gay. Meantime Rev. Mr. John Prentice of Lancaster, the Rev. Mr. Israel Loring of Sudbury, and the Rev. Mr. John Gardner of Stow were called in for advice and counsel. The story is a long and wearisome one, and I cut it as short as possible. After additional proceedings, mixed up with other affairs, the town got so far again on May 19, 1741, as to raise the sum of £120 "for a minister's rate," and on June 7th, 1741, at a town meeting then held, at which Mr. Jacob Houghton was moderator, it was put to vote whether "the town would choose by lott for a minister." It passed in the negative; and then it was voted (I quote the exact words) "that Mr. Thos. Goss should be the minister of the town by 44 votes qualified by law." £400 in bills of old tenour were then voted to him for his "encouragement and settlement;" and £180 in bills of old tenour or passable bills of credit for "stated sallary." Sept. 1st, 1741, finds the town again in town meeting to hear Mr. Thomas Goss, his answer, and for other business. After prayers, the business proceeded, and Mr. Goss's answer was read and put on file, a committee chosen to wait on Mr. Goss to "know his mind, when he inclines to have his ordination," and who should be sent for to assist, &c., &c.

It is to be presumed that Rev. Mr. Goss knew his mind



after these long delays, and that the ordination was held in due form and observance, with the usual accompaniments of feasting and (truth compels me to add) of drinking which belonged to the times; but I find no account of them.

At a town meeting held March 2d, 1742, establishing a school for the whole town near the meeting-house; thanking Capt. Osburn for what he had been pleased to do for the town; other votes not to plaster the meeting-house, and to choose a committee to divide the pew ground and seat the meeting-house; and to accept and allow certain accounts for providing for the ordination, we may consider it passed at that time, and that the minister has duly entered on his course and engaged in his work.

Years roll on, the seasons come and go; spring-time after spring-time sees the leaves form, and the blossoms diffuse their fragrance on the air, and harvest after harvest gathered; these are years, to appearance, of prosperity; new households are formed; children are born and die; and many others, after a protracted sojourn, and lives more or less useful, go to their long home — and where were they? We take just a hasty general glance, as the view dissolves before our eyes; and we pass on to something else.

Imagine much said that has not been said, and told that has not been told; imagine some thirty years or so passed over, and that we are now in A. D. 1770. [Appendix, J]. A very great change has come over their dream in this town and every town throughout the land — in New England and in all the original colonies. Though they know it not, they are in the birth-throes of a nation; they are preparing to drop — ripe or unripe — from the parent stem. The deeper woes of unhappy Boston have begun, her committee of correspondence are in communication with sister towns throughout the province and country; and they, for the most part, are in earnest sympathy with her.



In the endeavor to keep topics distinct, and disentangled from political questions and agitations, however much mixed up as for years and years afterwards they were in point of fact, I shall for a moment continue on this purely local affair, till it can properly be dismissed. In the town records many a page is given to it. I desire to dispose of it in as many lines.

"Patriot" and "Tory" were not then recognized as distinct terms, as they were afterwards, nor were persons so designated arrayed the one against the other. But the disturbances, the feelings, the political events had begun out of which were evolved the two great parties which afterwards might be distinguished by those words.

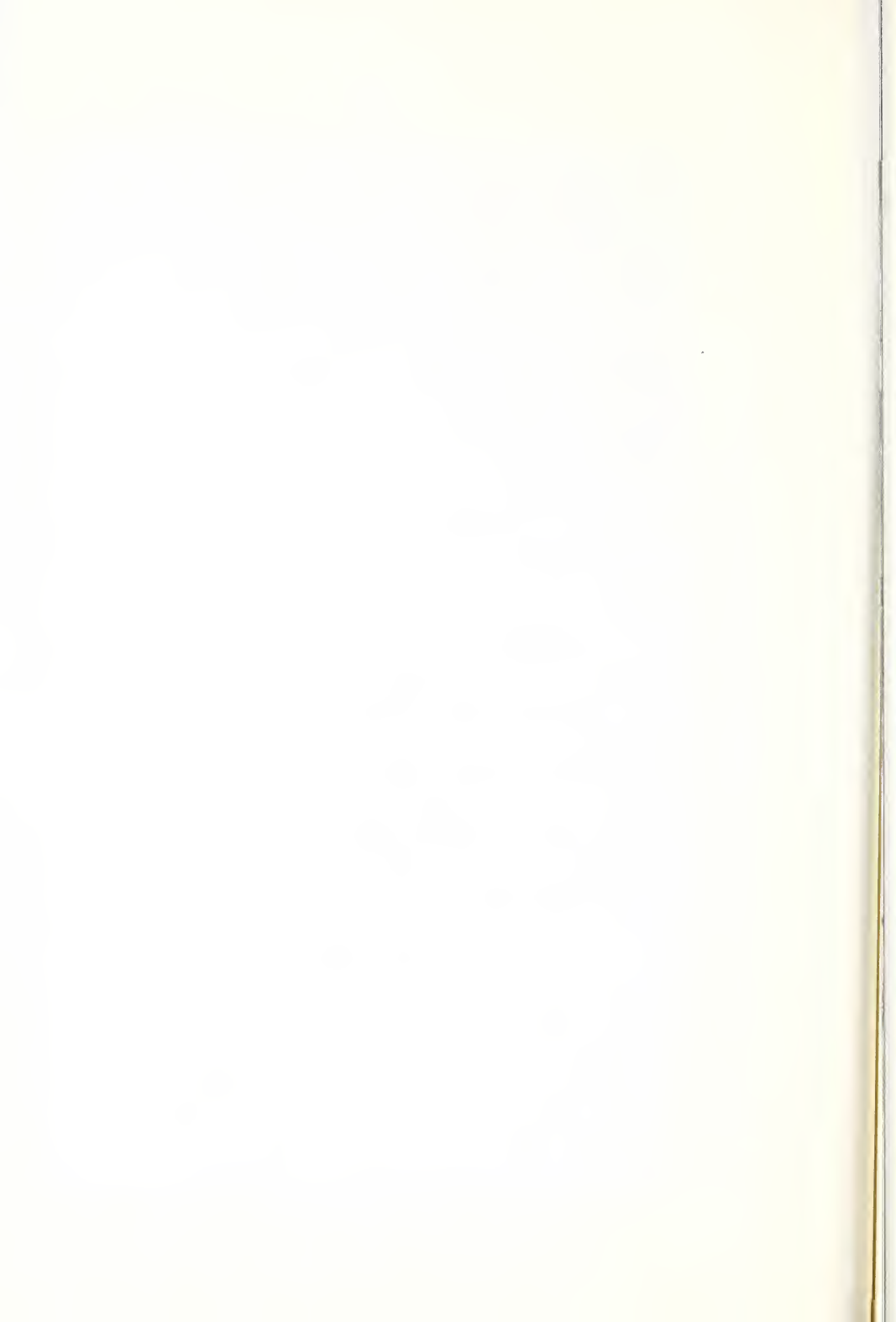
The minister whose coming was prepared for with so much elaboration, with such taking of counsel, with prayers and fastings, and who was received with such large cordiality, had lost his hold upon the good will and support of most of his people; lost it, said his enemies, because the spiritual influence by which he was moved was supposed to come more from the still than from the heavenly spheres; lost it, said his friends, because the views he took and maintained of ministerial, as well as of royal, prerogative, were entirely unsuited to the temper of the times, and the great movement which was everywhere in the air. What measure of truth they either of them had in the allegations made on either side, we will not now take upon us to decide. Sufficient to say the minister was jealously watched; occasions of offence and stones of stumbling, and enough of them, were speedily discovered (as at such times they generally are); and then commenced a quarrel and a controversy which lasted for years, and left its impress on the affairs of the town, on the generations born and to be born. Meeting after meeting was held, council after council called (five in all), pamphlet written in answer to pamphlet, lawsuits instituted, committees chosen to defend, moneys to pay expenses voted; feelings became deeply embittered,



fathers against sons, mothers-in-law against daughters-in-law, families separated from families. But after a while the dismissal of the minister, so obnoxious to a majority of the society, is procured, and another minister, Rev. John Walley, duly installed in his place. This event, so far from pouring oil on the troubled waters, rather stirred them to redoubled commotion. The town is divided now, not only into Whig and Tory, but into Gossites and Walleyites. The latter hold the church, have preaching there, and consider themselves the legal parish; while the former — the Gossites — adhering to the old minister, meet at a private house — that now occupied by the Holman family — and have preaching there. From 1770 to 1782, alongside with political affairs, mixed up with them continually, cropping out every now and then, in the most unexpected manner, when one might suppose it all over, the contest continued, like an active volcano pouring forth its cloud of smoke and rolling down its floods of lava; and, as a half extinct volcano, it continued to burn till 1782, when Mr. Goss is dead, and Mr. Walley has taken a dismissal, left the town, and removed to Roxbury, the home of his family.

The effects of this controversy, which for the day of it was one of the most important in New England, were long felt, not only here in this, but in all the neighboring towns. Time allows only this general sketch.

When Mr. Goss died, his friends, among whom were the neighboring ministers, almost to a man, erected to his memory a monument, still standing in our South burying-ground, inscribed in classical Latin and laudatory terms, with their sense of "the many virtues both private and public" with which they supposed him "adorned." When Mr. Walley died at Roxbury, a little while afterwards, he left to the Bolton parish to which he had ministered a small legacy, the good effects of which we still receive in Bibles, and other good books, throwing light on the sacred word. The divided sections of the town, the Gossites and the Walley-



ites, came together again, signed their old covenant, and became anew one church and society. With the general cessation from strife in the country at large, came the local. Discord had done its work ; and now Peace reigned in her stead ; but not until a plentiful harvest had been gathered from the dragon's teeth. Happy if the growth from that thistle seed then sown in Bolton soil has been wholly extirpated since ! [Appendix, K].

As has been stated, matters pertaining to the political movements of the period are curiously blended with the Goss controversy ; and one unacquainted with subsequent history, and taking his ideas from the Bolton books, would often be sadly puzzled to tell which of the two were the more important.

That Bolton was strongly on the patriotic side we find the evidence conclusive ; that she early mingled in the fray we find evidence just as conclusive ; but who of her sons actually armed for the conflict and went to the front is more difficult to discover. [Appendix, L]. As a general thing careful lists do not appear to have been kept in those days ; and one searching our books is able to find nowhere a record of those who served in the army. An approximate list of that description — if ever made — will have to be recovered as it can be from family traditions, and such other methods as may be open. [Appendix, L].

The first local indication of the great storm which was soon to spread over an entire cosmic hemisphere, and bury in gloom a continent, we find in such record as the following : "The freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Bolton are required, in his Majesty's name, to meet at the meeting-house on Monday, 21st of May, 1770," to see (among other questions, one of which relates to the Goss difficulties) whether they will "abstain from tea and other British Goods imported contrary to the agreement of the merchants of the town of Boston ; and to pass such vote or votes rel. thereto as the town shall think proper."



Accordingly, when at the date mentioned a town meeting was held, John Whitcomb, Esq., moderator, and on the second article the vote was put, "would they abstain from tea and other British Goods?" it passed in the affirmative very unanimously; and Mr. Caleb Richardson, Col. John Whitcomb and Capt. Samuel Nourse were chosen a committee to prepare a written vote to that effect — doubtless to be transmitted to Boston. Their written vote reads: Voted, "We highly approve of the conduct of the merchants of the town of Boston respecting the non-importation of British Goods; that we will none of us, under any pretence whatsoever, purchase one single article (except in a case of absolute necessity) of any merchant or trader that has imported goods contrary to the agreement of the merchants of the town of Boston; and that we shall esteem such purchasers enemies of their country, and not fit to be employed in any business of importance. Voted, further, that we will abstain from the use of all foreign teas ourselves, and that we will not suffer it to be used in our families, until the whole of the late revenue acts are repealed. Voted, fourthly, that we will use our utmost endeavors to promote industry, frugality, and our own manufactures as the most likely means to save our country from slavery, and secure a lasting inheritance to our posterity."

There is more to the same highly interesting effect. The ball is now fairly set a-rolling, and blow after blow is given to it by the sturdy players, till the game is brought to its most exciting stage; and long before they were fully aware of the real significance of their acts and of what they were about, they found themselves plunged into the fearful contest with the mother country, and engaged in the tremendous struggle to become a free and independent people.

The votes just quoted, you observe, were passed in 1770. Allow four years more to pass, and we find the town in town meeting assembled again in action relative to essen-



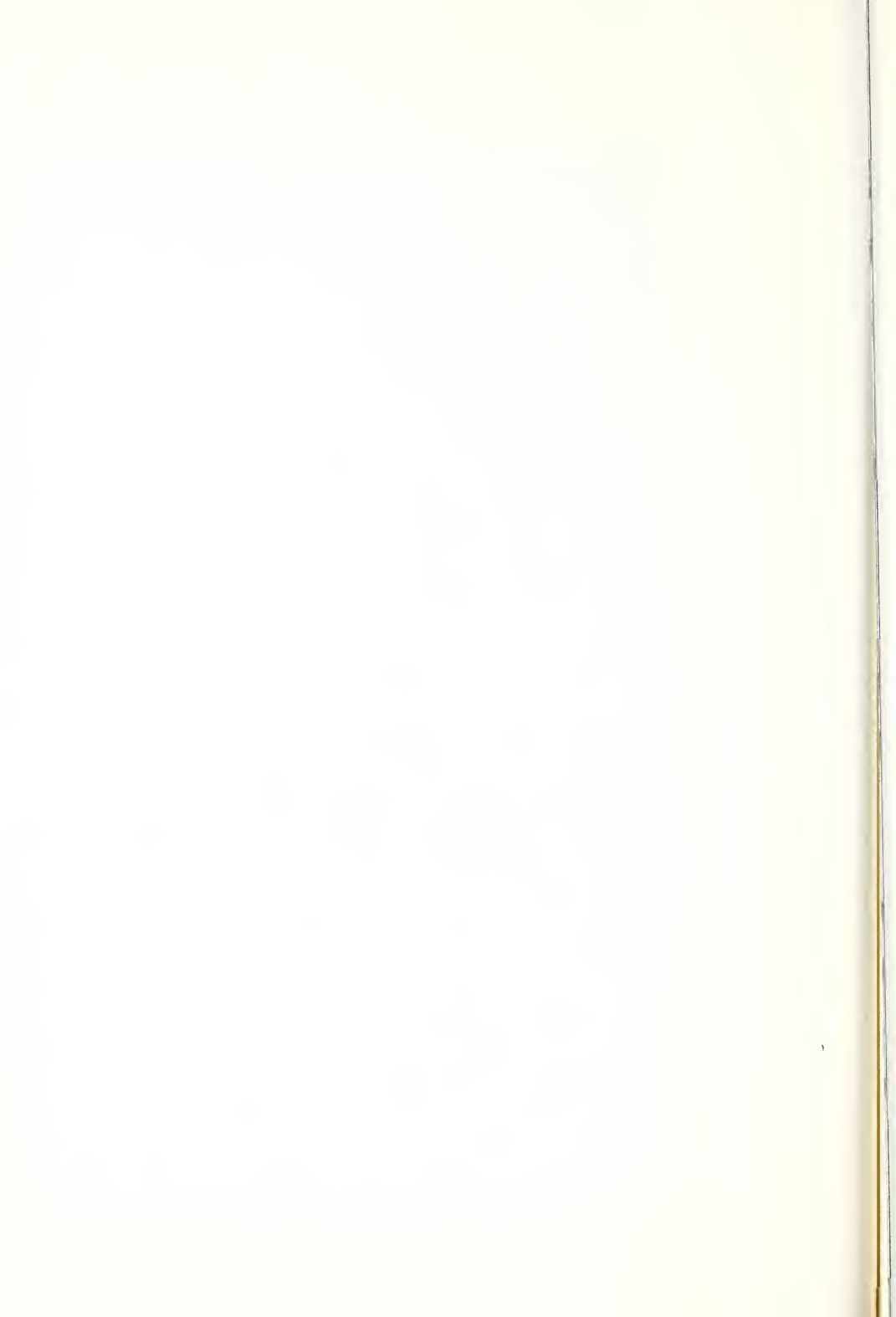
tially the same or similar matters. This time a more formal report is to be made and a more elaborate document prepared, and Mr. Caleb Richardson, Col. John Whitcomb, Capt. Samuel Baker, Capt. Samuel Nourse, and Mr. Joshua Johnson are the committee to prepare it; two of them, however,—Capt. Samuel Nourse and Mr. Joshua Johnson—do not sign it. The date is March 7th, 1774—a little more than a year before the battle of Lexington and Concord. It is quite a studied argument in justification of the movements and opinions of the times, in short a sort of forerunner of the immortal declaration, written evidently with painstaking, and occupies three or four pages of foolscap size in a small hand. To quote any considerable portion of it is of course out of the question. A single passage of a few lines will give the flavor of the whole:—“As to the assertions advanced (it goes on to say), that upon the Provincial Plan of taxation there would be *Imperium in Imperio*,’ a Supreme Government within a Supreme Government, we think is not stating the fact right; we always acknowledging the authority of the British Parliament (without being involved in them) within their just limits, and suppose they have full right and power (without us) to lay a tax of 10s. (or any other sum) on every lb. of tea before it goes over the capstian of any wharf in England for exportation, and the purchaser being there—where such law takes effect—must submit to it. But we humbly conceive there may be *Imperium preter Imperium*, a government besides and distinct from another, if said government respect different places and constitutions, although one of the same Branch (Sovereign meant) be at the head of both Constitutions;”—and so on and so forth much farther. As to tea’s going over the capstan of a wharf in England or anywhere else, we suppose any seafaring person in the audience would see the difficulty and needlessness of that operation; but we let that pass.

We cannot follow the local history along step by step;



there is too much of it. We will but state that we find notes like these, viz. : one that "the selectmen be impowered to collect, procure and transmit to our friends of this town in the army, such provision as they shall find necessary;" another, that the "town approves of the proceedings of the selectmen in their furnishing non-commissioned officers and soldiers with blankets;" a third, instructing the constables "to pay the rates in their hands (in other words, funds from the collection of taxes), not to Harrison Gray, Esq., the old treasurer under the royal government, but to Henry Gardner, Esq., treasurer under the new regime.

Time rolls on, months pass, and a little more than a year after the action of the town last referred to, the British expedition moves out from Boston, and the continuous battle of Lexington and Concord is fought, April 19th, 1775. Whether any Bolton men were in it or not, I have never learnt. Certain it is, no Bolton company was there. The late John Barnard of Dorchester, son of the Dr. Barnard (who as a zealous adherent of Mr. Goss and espousing the unpopular side in the politics of the period then and some time afterward figured in our annals), was then living in town, a boy in his father's family, born on the spot where my own residence now is. He died not many years ago. I was well acquainted with him. He once or twice mentioned to me his reminiscences of that eventful day. How he was gathering fire-wood at the foot of a rock in a neighboring pasture, how he heard the clatter of the horse's hoofs, as a messenger galloped into town shouting an alarm, how on hearing the outcry which this occasioned, he left his work and rushed down into the street to ascertain the cause; and that he saw much of the arming and equipping and hurrying away which followed. There were other reminiscences of the day. The late Oliver Nourse, who died among us, a very old man, in 1855, father of our respected fellow-citizen, David J. Nourse, once, punningly,



told me he had one reminiscence of the day he could not very easily lose sight of, viz. : that on the morning in question, by an accident in the wood-shed, he hurt the sight of one of his eyes — an accident he bore the marks of as long as he lived.

We are now brought down to the year 1776, the year the centennial of which we particularly celebrate, the year of the IMMORTAL DECLARATION. In fair and readable, but not particularly handsome writing it is recorded on the town records. Without introduction of any sort, in the midst of other matters of petty concernment relating to the locality, on the stained and decaying page dropping to pieces with age, there it stands ; but as impressive in its homely guise, as big with fate, as rich in thought, as grand in its simple but elegant phrase, as if inscribed in the Capitol of the Nation on tablets of shining brass, or, on the field of some eventful struggle, on a monument towering to the skies. Who can read the DECLARATION and not feel the weight and solemnity of its powerful diction, and the force with which it announces truths once new and startling, but which are now the accepted and cherished principles of all large and emancipated souls throughout the world. Who can hear it read, familiar as it is, in every school-book, and not be thrilled through and through with patriotic enthusiasm, and stirred to new ardor for the rights of man !

In those days of provincial feeling, when even the most daring minds scarcely ventured to contemplate so great a thought as that of separation from Great Britain, and an independent national existence for these remote colonies ; when so many everywhere — so many of the heretofore respected and respectable citizens of this town — shrunk in utter dismay before the prospect of a conflict in arms with the mother country, how must that DECLARATION have fallen like a meteor from the skies into these quiet and secluded shades ! I think I can almost see the trembling hands and the agitated face of the transcriber as he trans-



fers the sentences that shine like gold, but cut like steel, to his books. I think I see the fathers of the town, with anxious gaze and 'bated breath gathering round to watch him as he writes. (In those days it was much more a work of time to do so much writing than now, and the copying, very possibly, took weeks for its accomplishment.) The copyists, how they look over their shoulders in suspicion and alarm, as if plotting some piece of outrageous mischief, if any one approaches; how the book is closed in haste and trepidation if any stranger comes too near; how the book for many a long day afterward is hidden away with extra care, and guarded with redoubled vigilance!

Copies of the document had been forwarded, without doubt (after being passed upon in Congress), to all the Massachusetts towns. On the books of Bolton we find the following record immediately following the declaration, signed by the names of John Hancock, president; Charles Thompson, secretary. Then as follows:—"Ordered, that the Declaration of Independence be printed, and a copy sent to the ministers of each parish of every denomination, and that they severally be required to read the same to their respective congregations as soon as divine service is ended in the afternoon, on the first Lord's Day after they shall have received it; and after such publication thereof, to deliver the said DECLARATION to the Clerks of their several towns, or districts, who are hereby required to record the same in their respective town, or district, book, there to remain as a perpetual memorial."

There it has remained, on the books of this town, a "perpetual memorial," until this Centennial year of grace, 1876; but there it cannot much longer remain unless something be done to make more secure its preservation.

I find nothing more of special interest relating to the events of the time excepting what has already been recited. The war went on, through all its varying phases, the sons



of Bolton, like other men good and true elsewhere, shed their blood in it; its evils were felt here in care, distress, impoverishment, as in other towns; scenes of violence and riot were enacted, as citizens of opposing factions, with passions heated, met each other; till at length — the long and almost utterly exhausting struggle over — peace, smiling peace, was once more restored; and here, as elsewhere, people settled down, with all their political relations changed, in circumstances of uncertainty, gloom and much doubt to the new order of things.

I must overleap a period of something like forty or fifty years. Commerce, meantime, has spread her ample wings, though she has not as yet developed the new and gigantic power which has recently come into existence. Other marvellous changes have been made, wonderful discoveries in the arts and sciences are adopted; steam is introduced for travel on the land, and to a more limited extent on the water; other improved methods of transportation have been in use some time; the post office and the cheap postage system is thoroughly established and becomes one of our most important and leading institutions; newspapers are become a necessity of life; the whole art of living shows a great advance; in short, a new era has dawned, and made a considerable advance towards even its perfect day.

Political changes, quite as great as have taken place among us, have occurred in other realms and nationalities. With us, an elective President has taken the place of an hereditary King. Distinctions of rank are abolished, and though the features of the landscape may be the same as they were before, the whole order of society has been almost altogether reconstructed. The story has been often told and is familiar to us all. I shall not repeat it. Time compels to a rapid *resume* of some of the leading events of this intervening period. The purely local ones are those only I shall notice, till once more we strike down for a momentary pause, for a few words, before we close, relative to our recent war of 1861-'65.



Bolton, at the close of the war of the Revolution, was doubtless, relatively, more of a town than now. In common with other Massachusetts agricultural towns, it has undergone a process of dwindling and diminution, the causes of which we cannot stop to explain. As yet Hudson was not, nor for many and many a year afterwards; Clinton was not; Fitchburg, though existing as a township, was of no importance, but like any other of our small country towns; Berlin was a part of Bolton (its south precinct, though in some respects almost independent of Bolton even then); and Lancaster, the mother town, was much nearer on the same level with her daughter towns than at present. I might go on, but must not dwell where so much else is to be said. [Appendix, M].

It becomes discovered, as the country is explored and its resources developed, its capabilities more exactly ascertained, that some of the great roads to parts of this and contiguous states, must be laid through this region where we dwell. These roads are constructed, inns and taverns spring up all along the line; a great inland trade in cattle, sheep, horses and swine, wooden ware, furniture and other goods is developed, and for a season, much prosperity, depending on this trade, is enjoyed along the route. Immediately among ourselves some new kinds of business are introduced, the comb manufacture from horn, the lime kiln at the east part, which for many years supplied all the neighboring region with its lime. But with the introduction of railroads, and the opening of new lines of travel, nearly all this prosperity was turned away from us, and bestowed elsewhere.

Meantime, too, let us not fail to notice, with the introduction of Whitney's cotton gin into the South, leading to such marvellous and unlooked for results, socially and politically, the manufacture of another kind of gin, with kindred fluids, becomes much extended in New England, and other parts of the country; and the danger is becom-



ing every day more imminent that this nation of freemen will become a nation of drunkards; and the perception of this danger, and the dread of it, leads to one of the greatest and most magnificent moral reforms the world has ever seen; but, like storms in the natural world, it is accompanied with terrible convulsions, and while the general result is far extended and deep planted good for the whole, the partial result is often, for individuals, suffering and loss.

Recalling to your recollection what was said in the earlier part of this address relative to controversies and troubles which had arisen between minister and people, and changes which had occurred, brought about by the march of events and the great political convulsion which had been passed through; let us look around us, and see where we are at about A. D. 1825, or a little before, or a little after. In 1780, Mr. Goss, the first minister, died; and with him died, as a separate organization, the little body of his "adherents." Mr. Walley, his successor, considered by most the legal minister of the town, soon afterwards took a dismission; and in 1782 the two divided portions reunited, and formed anew one church and society. Rev. Phineas Wright, a native of Westford, was the next minister, remaining at his post some fifteen or twenty years, and after a quiet, and on the whole, prosperous service, dying here while still minister of the parish. He was foilowed by Rev. Isaac Allen, from Weston, good old man, father indeed in the spirit if not in the flesh, who also lived and died among you, remaining forty years, through a period which many of you freshly remember, but of which we cannot now pause to speak more particularly. [Appendix, N].

We pass on to say that, about A. D. 1826 or '7, a new religious society, claiming to hold more closely to the faith of the Fathers, was formed, under the special auspices of the late S. V. S. Wilder, an influential and wealthy citizen, who then, and years before and after, lived among us,



exercising a princely hospitality, and who entertained at his elegant abode the beloved La Fayette when on his visit, about that time, to the United States. Mainly by the instrumentality of our fellow-citizen just referred to, a spacious and handsome church was built on the hill-side within his estate, near the Lancaster line, a congregation of goodly size from this and neighboring towns gathered, and a succession of pastors settled. Customs and usages changing, however, with advancing time, its members, finding the arrangement inconvenient and dispersing into other congregations nearer home, the enterprise was abandoned, and for several years — forsaken, dismantled, and appropriated to other uses — its edifice has stood, like one of the romantic ruins of the old world, a monument of that vicissitude which belongs to all things human. One of its respected pastors, whom many rejoice to see in our assemblies once more, is with us at this time, and will participate in the observances of the day ere they close. [Appendix, O].

In 1832 the Baptists, who for several years had been a growing communion in all the neighboring region, organized in this town; and from that day to this, their ministers and members have been among our respected and useful citizens, doing cordially their appreciated good work, for the temporal as well as spiritual welfare of our community. Their gem of a church adorns our principal thoroughfare, and their respected clergyman is chairman of our school committee, and is active in every enterprise for the public benefit. [Appendix, P].

As to the Friends or Quakers, their local history, it is believed, is coeval or nearly so with the history of the town. They have produced some of the best material for usefulness, for promoting the general welfare and that of the rising generation we have ever had, and raised some of the best scholars that have adorned our schools.

About A. D. 1860 or '61, a Methodist society was formed



in town and maintained its established ministry, having for their clergyman a young man who seemed to have the hearts of his people, but who was early taken from them by death. Finding easy access to churches of their faith in neighboring towns, they did not long continue their separate organization, but either formed ecclesiastical ties out of town, or dispersed into other societies of this. In short, one disadvantage has always attended us, this, namely, to form a religious connection it is just as easy to go out of town, in many instances easier, as it is to stay in. As regards the general interests of the town, the result of this condition of things, as may be supposed, is far from favorable. [Appendix, Q].

Till a very recent period, the town has never been without one or more physicians, most of whom, according to the ideas of their time, have been well read in their profession, worthy of the respect and esteem of the community; and some of them, on account of tried and acknowledged skill, in demand for their services in all the region round about. [Appendix, R].

Lawyers have not locally flourished among us; but Teachers have. Among them were men who, in their later career, adorned the bar, the pulpit, and the halls of learning, but who, on taking their first start in the great work of life, wielded the ferrule or the birch, or ruled by milder sway in *our* school-houses. A mere list of them would occupy a large space, and if made must be reserved for another place. [Appendix, S].

About A. D. 1849, one of our citizens, who by the exertions of an honest and industrious life had amassed a more ample competency than usually falls to the lot of farmers, on his death-bed left by will a large legacy to the town (\$12,000), to be used for the establishment here of a high grade school, where such "academic instruction" should be given as the voters should decide on. Thus was founded the "HOUGHTON SCHOOL," an institution which has gener-



erally prospered, which introduced a new and elevating influence amongst us, and which has done not a little towards forming the character and furnishing with their first mental outfit for the start in life most of the younger portion of our citizens, male and female, who have grown, or are growing up, to take their place in society. [Appendix, T].

And at a period a little later, viz., in 1856, a public LIBRARY, free to all our inhabitants, was set on foot, and has continued steadily to increase since. Its healthful, cheering and improving influence has been felt throughout our community, with old and young, with male and female; and, as the years roll on, continues to exercise its kindly effects more and more extensively. [Appendix, U].

Thus, omitting much I would cheerfully notice were there time; passing by without so much as a glance topics in themselves of interest and importance; rushing over the rail at a rate of speed which allows hardly half a minute of speech to a year of local history; the glimpses we gain of the landscape, as we hurry on, can neither be very minutely surveyed by the eye, nor deeply impressed in detail for the memory. But, with your permission, indulgent friends, I will for a moment slacken speed, and pause for a while at a place in our local history, and in that also of our whole people, of such interest and importance that you would not forgive me if I passed it with barely an allusion.

The war of 1861-'65, how well worthy of being remembered, and its lessons deeply impressed on our souls! As we have seen before, what sons of Bolton served in the great struggle of the Revolution, in which our fathers engaged, we cannot tell with accuracy and precision; what scenes of service they saw, whether Bunker Hill, with PUTNAM, PRESCOTT, and WARREN; or Brandywine, with LA FAYETTE; or Rhode Island, with ROCHAMBEAU; or Trenton, Princeton and Yorktown, with WASHINGTON and



LINCOLN. A list of names, a catalogue of soldiers, officers and men, rather sad to say, was not kept, and any omissions in that way, if ever partially remedied, can only be supplied through defective traditions already fading out, and through such papers and reminiscences of persons and families as may chance to be recovered: [Appendix, V].

The record of our last grand struggle for National Life — for the great Ideas and Institutions which our fathers established — for the Deliverance of those, once Bondmen, but now our Fellow-Citizens — that, thanks for every noble and grateful thought coming from above, for benefits received! — has been kept, and kept with a faithfulness worthy of all acknowledgment. By the pious care of both our national and state governments, and by the enthusiastic efforts of several of our most able and cultivated writers and thinkers, we have the most elaborate, the most careful and minute record of all relating to that most eventful time. All names, with particulars, impartially registered: every poor soldier's grave marked, whether in national cemetery or village church-yard: his name preserved on marble tablet or costly monument in hall or public square: his widow assisted, and his children not left unprovided for: all this and much more.

But I come to our own more particular and local participation in these deep memories. When the warning voice of the great storm was first heard: when the mighty struggle was about to begin, which, before it was ended, was to make four million freemen out of four million slaves: this little town, nestled among the hills, obscure and humble though it was, was not found either indifferent or asleep. Though no telegraph poles dot over our roads, and no trains roar through our valleys, our nerves, nevertheless, tingled as quickly as those of any more favored community in the body politic. When the alarm was sounded in our modern streets, as promptly as on the eventful 19th April, '76, a hundred and more years ago, those summoned were



found ready ; and, leaving plough and last, hammer and saw, took their place — yes, and manfully maintained it — in the serried ranks of war.

And when the call came again and yet again, with what celerity and zeal it was met ! The teacher threw down his books, the school-boy forsook his desk, the farmer left his plough a-field, the Hudson shoe-hand forgot his factory, and turning back on home, on wife and children, on sweetheart and friends, and all that was dear, hurried to the fearful strife, which was to be "the last of earth" to how many of them yonder tablets tell. A thrice-told tale, so familiar in all towns, in all ears, I need not dwell on it at length.

Our boys could say — each one almost with a different experience — "much of this I saw, and part of this I was." The Peninsular, the Seven Days Retreat : we were there with McClellan. The second Bull Run : we were there too, and some of our number never came back. Fredericksburg, Chancellorville, Gettysburg : yes, we heard their thunders, and mingled in the thickest of their fights. When the bombs fell crashing into Forts Jackson and St. Phillip, when Farragut cut the chain, and passed up the river to New Orleans ; when, tied like a target to the mast, he run the batteries and anchored his vessels in the bay of Mobile, we were there ; Sherman's March to the Sea saw us ; and when the great earthquake throes came in the Wilderness and around Petersburg and Richmond, with our brave comrades from all over the land, we were found ready to pour forth our blood, and yield up our lives. [Appendix, W].

How much there was to signalize the great struggle, and make it a most interesting, as well as affecting, period in our annals ! I wish I had time to tell. How deeply our women were interested in it ; how, all through the eventful time, they met, week after week, to sew, to knit, to cook, to put up hospital stores and other comforts for the dear



absent ones, away and exposed to such hardships and dangers; how package after package, and box after box was sent by them to the Sanitary Commission, and thence to the front at the seat of war. I might speak of distinguished citizens from abroad, like Dr. Loring, John C. Park, Esq., and others, who visited us during the time referred to, and labored among us to keep the sacred fire of patriotism burning brightly in our souls, and to stir up the minds of our young men to enter our armies; I might speak too of the dedication of the tablets which now grace so proudly the neighboring hall. [Appendix, X]. All these topics, so rich in themselves, on which one would be inclined to dwell with how deep an interest, I merely glance at and leave; concluding with the statement that Bolton sent in all about one hundred and thirty-five men to the war, about a dozen of whom (and they towards the very last) were substitutes and hirelings, and that of her own sons a little more than one-sixth never came back.

Such is a glance, taken only here and there as at a building of goodly appearance and size, seen through enveloping mists, we have been able to take of the history of our town. Like other human histories, it is not without its pages which one would wish removed; nor without passages which, if fidelity to truth would allow, we would be glad to have expunged; but on the whole it is a worthy and honorable, if not a proud record; and the sons need not feel ashamed of the fathers, nor the daughters of the mothers. We are, it is true, among the small towns of the state, of little importance socially or politically; but faithful history enables us to say, we have done our share of good work, however comparatively insignificant, and made our mark on the Century, though it may be but a mere scratch.

Fellow-citizens and Friends, we have cast a retrospective glance into the affairs of our fathers; may we not, before we close, take another glance into the future, with regard



to our own prospects? Our opportunities, are they small? Our position, considered either geographically, with reference to the great centres, or in relation to trade, or climate, or the market—is it unfavorable? Is there any good reason, in the nature of things and the prospects that are dawning upon us, why the best spirit of our times—these times of mental activity, of enterprise, of philanthropy—should not circulate like life-blood through our veins? May not all that is unfriendly to good manners and morals, and pure religion, and to the best interests of our race, be gradually eliminated from our spiritual soil, as pests are destroyed from the crops? Why should not the year of Grace, 1976, see Bolton, if still an agricultural town—as in all human probability it doubtless will be—behold it also a town of which may be said, everything healthful for man, and not much that is evil, grows there, as in the garden of the Lord; a spot of this fair earth of which the Great Father may say: "It is abundantly watered with my blessing and is fruitful and beautiful?"



APPENDIX.

For the Centennial observances, not only was the Chief Decorator ably assisted in ornamenting the church with bouquets of flowers, as well as by flags and streamers, by the Misses Newton; but the town hall also was adorned by him in a similar manner. Messrs. Barrett, Hurlbut and Whitcomb—to whom the preparation of the banquet was assigned—assisted by their wives and other ladies, entered zealously into their share of the duty; and a hearty return of thanks is due to them for the satisfactory manner in which it was performed. The display of fire-works in the evening, under the superintendence of F. E. Whitcomb, Esq., was appreciatively received; as was also the cavalcade and procession of young men and school children in the morning. On account of its length, several pages of the address were omitted in the delivery, and one or two of them taken from the text and transferred to the appendix.

[A. Page 2.]

See Address in Commemoration of the Two-hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of Lancaster, Mass., by Joseph Willard (1853).

See Bi-Centennial Discourse delivered in the Meeting-house of the First Parish, Lancaster, on Sunday, Feb. 20th, 1876, in Commemoration of the Destruction of the Town by the Indians, Feb. 21, 1670. By Rev. A. P. Marvin.

A curious relic of the olden times, a "pocket-book," as it is called, found among the papers of the first clerks of the town, has been preserved. It contains, among other items and jottings down, the fragment of a diary kept by a party on the "war-path," out in pursuit (through what is now New Hampshire) of a band of Indians, who are escaping with their spoils from some scene of violence in territory (as it is now) of this town or of Lancaster. The date is altogether uncertain. The figures in the left-hand margin refer to days of the month. Leaves from the beginning, which would indicate by whom written, are missing:

1010257

9. We traveled 14 miles and camped at the norwest corner of winipocket pond.

10. We traveled 16 miles, and camped at the north side of Cusumpe pond.

11. We traveled 6 miles N by E from Cusumpe and there camped — and sent out scouts, and some of our scouts thought they discovered smoke.

12. We sent out scouts, and they discovered nothing.

13. We lay still and sent out scouts, and to strengthen us to go farther we sent home 29 men.

14. We traveled 10 miles towards pigwackett, and then came upon a branch of Saco river, and sent out scouts.

15. We lay still and sent out scouts and discovered nothing.

16. We traveled 6 miles and came upon an Indian wigwam — the Indians being gone we left 16 men with our packs and the rest pursued them till dark and stayed there all night.

17. We followed their track till eight o'clock next day and then we came back to fetch our packs, traveled the remaining part of that day and the night ensuing six miles.

18. We traveled 20 miles and camped at the great pond upon Sawco river.

19. We traveled 22 miles and camped at a great pond.

20. We traveled 5 miles and came to a wigwam where the Indians had but lately gone from, and then we pursued their track about 2 miles farther and discovered their smoke and then tarried till about two o'clock at night and then came upon them and killed 10 Indians which was all there was.

21. We traveled 6 miles.

22. We lay still and kept scouts upon our back tracks to see if there would any pursue.

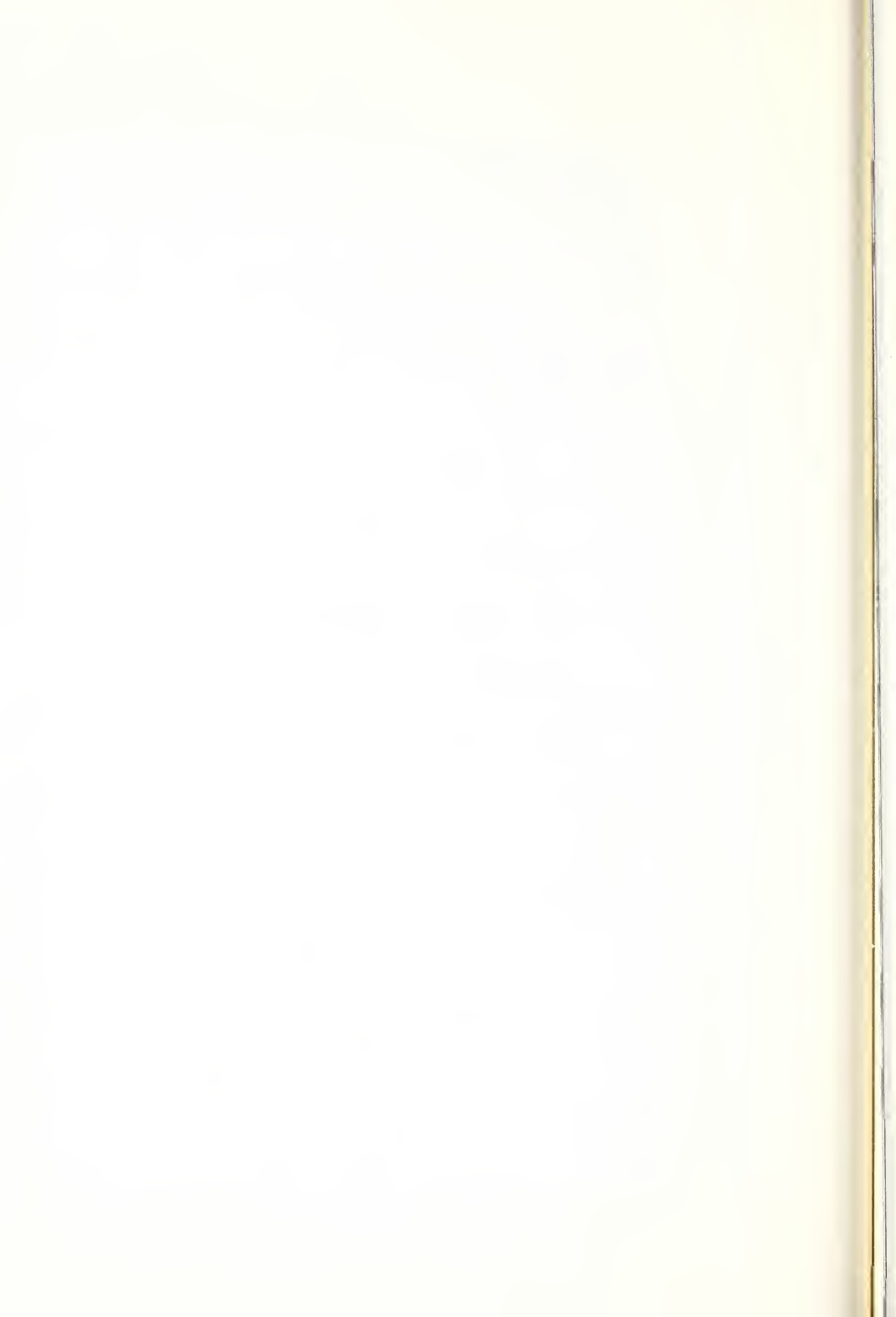
23. We traveled 30 miles and camped at Cocheco.

The diary ends abruptly. How old the book is, no one can tell. After the minutes we have given, it is filled up with various entries of one sort and another, some relating to recent and private affairs.

[B. Page 3.]

The first newspaper in North America was set up in Boston about A. D. 1690. It was a small sheet of four 4to pages, one of which was blank. It contained a record, very poor and meagre, of passing occurrences foreign and domestic. One number only of this paper is known to be in existence, in the state paper office in London. It bears date Sept. 25, 1690.

On Monday, April 24, 1704, "The Boston News Letter" appeared, printed on a half sheet of paper, 12x3 inches, made up in two pages folio, with two columns on each page. It had but feeble support and limited circulation. After struggling along for years, in 1763 it was united with another paper called the "Boston Post Boy & Advertiser," and became the official organ of the government. Passing through several hands and becoming meantime strongly Tory in its politics, as events moved on, it continued to be published through the siege of Boston, till about March, 1776, when with the termination of the siege it was discontinued.



Other papers were the "Boston Gazette," begun 1719; the "New England Courant," conducted by James, brother to Dr. Benj. Franklin, commenced in 1721; the "Boston Gazette & Country Journal," published by Edes & Gill, begun April, 1755, the chief organ of the Whig leaders, which lasted through the war, and for some years afterwards; the "Massachusetts Spy," conducted by Isaiah Thomas at Worcester, which did not commence its issues till July, 1770.—*Buckingham's Reminiscences*, Vol. 1.

[C. Page 4.]

These statements relative to the "Bay Road" are made not only on authority of the records, but also of traditions still current in the families of Mr. Marshal W. Houghton and his sister Mrs. Sarah S. Learned, Mr. Joel Sawyer, and others familiar with the localities of the region, and who have had access to the early papers and documents of the town.

[D. Page 6.]

Why an officer exercising such functions should be called a "tithing man" does not appear. Perhaps, originally, an officer, some of whose duties were the same, or similar, was collector also of tithes. Did the office, along with its designation, come as a Puritan institution from Old England?

[E. Page 7.]

Boston, in 1722, less than a century from its first settlement by eight years, and sixteen before the incorporation of Bolton, occupied not much more than a half of the old peninsular: without bridges, which were not built till many years afterwards, its sole connection by road with the main being over "the Neck," which was so narrow that the tides, when high, approached nearly to the road-way on either side. In population it was about 12,000. It contained 11 churches, had 42 streets, 35 alleys, and nearly 3000 houses, about one-third of which were of brick, and the remainder of wood. It had been eight times swept by fires, and six times severely visited by small-pox, by which disease large numbers of the inhabitants lost their lives.

To indicate somewhat their relative importance at the commencement of the war of the Revolution, we give the amount of taxes paid in to the government of the Province, by several of the towns, most of them in Worcester county, in the year 1770:



	£	s.	d.
Boston,	3,083	9	3
Roxbury,	335	0	8
Dedham,	235	12	9
Woodstock, then considered in Massachusetts, . . .	218	0	4
Lancaster,	209	7	3
Leominster,	63	9	9
Worcester,	166	2	2
Harvard,	91	9	1
Bolton,	87	1	6
Princeton,	20	2	8
Leicester,	81	12	2
Northborough,	45	2	4
Fitchburg,	18	11	5

This list of course might be greatly extended: but enough is given to show the important changes which have since taken place. The territory now Clinton, at the time indicated and for many years afterwards, was an obscure corner of Lancaster, with only a dozen or so of inhabitants, with none of its large facilities for manufacturing purposes "evolved," which have since been put to use.

[F. Page 9.]

The town was named — according to tradition — after Charles Powlet, third Duke of Bolton, who was long a member of the council.

[G. Page 10.]

In lieu of citing names of individuals from the old records, as they occur in connection with special action of the town, or in other ways — which from the quantity of the ground to be gone over, and the frequent occurrence of such mention would be impossible, within our limits — we have thought best to copy in alphabetical order, per the books, a list of names of the earlier settlers, with such running commentary as we can find space for.

Atherton was one of those early names, and later, Amsden, Babcock, Ball, Baker, Bacon, Barrett (spelt also Barrott and Barrat, a once large and influential family that settled on Long Hill, from which descended our present Town Treasurer, Roswell Barrett, Esq.), Barnard, Bayley, Bigelow, Brooks, Bruce, Butler, Burnam, Carter, Caswell, Cooledge (Coolidge), Chaplin, Chase, Clark, Danforth, Davis, Divoll, Daikin, Edwards, Ellis, Ellinwood, Fairbanks, Farnsworth, Faulkner, Farwell, Fife (Foife, Fyfe), Fuller, Fosket, Foster, Fry (a once numerous family, principally among "the Friends" or "Quakers," which produced some of our ablest men), Fletcher, Gardner (a name which did not come in with the first settlement, but which belonged, at a comparatively early period, to one of the most influential men the town has ever had, the late Stephen P.), Gates, Gibbs, Goss, Goddard, Greenleaf, Goodnow, Gould, Hale, Haven, Harris, Hem-



enway, Hastings, Holder, Howe, Houghton (a numerously represented family in all periods of the town's history, and associated with some of our most valued institutions), Holman (a family which has produced individuals who have exercised a most marked influence in all the affairs of the place, among whom Genl. Silas and his son Genl. Amory), Howard, Jacobs, Jewett, Johnson, Jones, Keyes, Knight, Kimmens, Larned, Lawrence, Longley (a family which produced several highly useful citizens, among whom were three of our town clerks, grandfather, father and son, who held office successively after each other), Maynard, Marble, Meriam, MacBride (a name now confined pretty much to the neighboring town of Berlin), MacWain (a name which has also entirely disappeared here), Moore (a name largely represented, in several families remotely, if at all, connected with each other, which has been borne by three of our town treasurers, a father and two sons, one of whom was C. C. Moore, Esq., treasurer for more than thirty years), Newton (two or three distinct families, to one of which belongs Nathaniel A., Esq., our present highly respected representative in the legislature), Nicholls, Nurse (modernized into Nourse, a once numerous family, divided into many sub-families, and which has left its impress as well as name, on all our local affairs for two or three generations), Oaks (a name now wholly unknown here), Osborn (Osburn, a name years ago one of the most familiar, but now borne by but one individual), Pierce, Parker, Pratt, Pollard (once the name borne by many in town, now confined to a few), Rice, Richardson (an influential name that has now wholly disappeared amongst us), Reed, Russell, Ross, Robins (of which names the same may be said), Sawyer (a name which, frequently as it appears elsewhere, is getting to be comparatively infrequent here. It has been often a name of weight and influence, however, as well as of frequency. The late 'Squire Joseph, Capt. John and others, who bore it, are represented in others, their decendants, still with us). Stearns, Sawtell, Stiles, Swan, Stone, are names which, as borne by members of the old families of the town, have disappeared, though the last mentioned is still heard in our every day speech, as borne by an honored representative, a much more recent comer. Stratton is still among us. The letter T finds its representatives in Tinney, Townsend, and Tombs (the first and last of which are no longer living names within our lines). U and V have no representatives, while W is the most fruitful and best represented letter in the alphabet. Whitcomb is the large name under that, with numerous representatives in this and earlier generations. There were Col. John, his son Jonathan, and his grandson 'Squire Edwin A., quite a prominent man among us, only recently deceased, and very many more. Other names under W: Walcott, Whitney, White, Welch, Wheeler (of which, in one of the families, the late Col. Caleb was the last representative), Woodbury, Wood, Wetherbee. The name Wheeler among the Friends is represented in our influential fellow-citizens, Jesse B. and Thomas A., and others.



Our list has swelled to large proportions: and, even if incomplete, must be discontinued if we would have room for other topics.

Other names, now familiar, the bearers of which are for the most part still living, and many of them among our most worthy citizens, are of, comparatively, recent introduction. Such as Bailey, or Bayley, Barker, Bagley, Bellows, Brigham, Campbell, Carpenter, Collins, Cunningham, Dow, Edes, Felton, Forbush, Gilman, Grassie, Hamilton, Harrington, Heywood, Hurlbut, Rollins, Robinson, Searle, Sloper, Wallace, Wallis (this last is represented in John S. Wallis, Esq., for some years of our board of Selectmen, and who represented the town in the legislature of 1861): and, probably, others we do not now recall — of persons, very likely, who removed years ago out of town. The Higginson family, of which Col. T. W. Higginson is a son, for some years owned and occupied the estate afterwards S. V. S. Wilder's, and where Mr. Forbush now resides.

Until quite recently there were no persons of Irish descent in town. Now they are quite numerous, represented by such names as Broderick, Butler, Coyne or Kine, Doyle, Dugan, Haggarty, Murphy, Shaunessy, Sullivan, &c.

[H. Page 11.]

The paragraph relative to Hoosac tunnel and the elegant station-house — it may be as well to state for the information of distant readers — was written in an ironical vein. Lancaster railroad, built to connect Hudson and South Lancaster, the old Fitchburg road and the Worcester & Nashua, between the valley of the Assabet river and that of the Nashua, and running with a somewhat curved course through the centre of Bolton, though very nearly completed years ago, has never been quite finished, and used by the public. No buildings have been erected in connection with Lancaster R. R., and consequently no structure at the place indicated in the address. The writer spoke rather of what should be, of what he would be glad to see, than of that which actually was. A note relative to this matter will be inserted at another place, viz.: at M, farther on.

[I. Page 15.]

In the early settlement of the country, and for two centuries afterwards, it was customary, on extending a "call" to a candidate for a parish, to make him an offer of so much for annual salary, and so much for "encouragement," or, as it came to be phrased afterwards, so much "for a settlement." This encouragement or settlement money was supposed to be used by the new minister in paying off old debts contracted for his education, in purchasing necessary books for his library, or in procuring articles of furniture for his household.

The writer has found it difficult, with such references as he has at hand, to ascertain the value of pounds, shillings and pence in the provin-



cial currency of that period, 1741. He can only state in general it was very much less than that of the same denominations in English money.

[J. Page 16.]

All the towns of the Colonies, as afterwards in the war of the Revolution, furnished their share of stores and funds, and their contingent of men, for the French and Indian wars, which broke out shortly after the middle of the last century was passed. This town, accordingly, bore its part, and contributed its quota of men to that struggle, which inaugurated by the ill-fated expedition and disastrous defeat of Genl. Braddock in Pennsylvania, culminated at last in the banishment of the French power from America, in the capture of the Canadas, and in the conquest of Montreal and Quebec. Traditions relating to that period have, however, pretty much died out, overshadowed by others of much greater interest pertaining to a later time; and the record which refers to the era of that war is of the most meagre description — not a line which adds anything either to our local or general knowledge of the events which then occurred. But our books are not wholly without items which significantly point to the period: as, for instance, the following: “Charles Holman, born in Concord, Feb. 24, 1727, slain in the Army at Lake George.” (This — as appears from evidence found elsewhere — was in August, 1758, when there was a camp at Lake George.)

But when, some weeks after our Centennial Celebration, search was made in families of the town for writings and documents relating to the Revolutionary period, and before, it proved, in some instances, unexpectedly successful. At the house of Mr. Paul Whitcomb in a drawer of old papers, supposed of little or no value, was found a small 4to MSS. volume, bound in hog-skin, with a peculiar brass clasp, which contained, along with other items, the “Orderly Book” of his grandfather, Col. John Whitcomb, a military diary of the times of which we are speaking. We give in brief such little account of it and abstract from it as our space will allow.

Col. John Whitcomb of Bolton — as appears from his title — was in command of a regiment; and, at one end of the book (several pages being lost out) is recorded a list of the companies comprising the regiment. The first seven companies are missing; but, beginning with the 8th company, we have a list of the rest, officers and men, to the 18th and last. Then, turning the book, we have, at the other end, with many quirks and flourishes, in a handsome hand, the following: “Col. John Whitcomb’s Orderly Book. August 11th, 1760. For the total Reduction of the Canadas;” and from the date just given to the following, Nov. 9th, we have the record of the places of encampment, pass-words, and orders of the day, till, as we suppose, the army was disbanded, and Col. Whitcomb returned to his home, where we find him afterwards, serving in a civil capacity.



The army for the reduction of the Canadas, it seems, was composed of three divisions: 1st, "the Regulars" (trained British soldiers); 2d, "the Provincials;" and 3d, the Indian allies. We give, as specimens, one or two extracts (dropping the old-fashioned spelling). The first entry is as follows:—

"CAMP ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN, 11th August, 1760.

"Parole Amherst. For the day, tomorrow, the Regulars, Major Campbell, Col. for the day. Provincials, Col. Ruggles, of ———; for the piquet, this night, Lt. Col. Saltonstall. The reports of the Regulars to be made to the field officers of the Regulars. The reports of the Provincials to Col. of the Provincials, who are to make their reports to Col. Haviland. It is expected for the future, that the boats are kept more regular in their columns, and that they observe the order of rowing; two *bateaux* abreast, and that a careful lookout is kept for signals, when the army encamps. When the army encamps near the enemy, their tents must be in three lines, leaving an interval between each company. In case the army lands, on the passage, as few tents as possible to be brought on shore, as most of the men will find room to lay in their *bateaux*. When it is thought fit the army should embark, orders will be given to the Royals to beat *the generale*, and *the assemblée* half an hour afterwards. The other corps to take it from them, and wait in their boats until the signal is made for sailing." * * * *

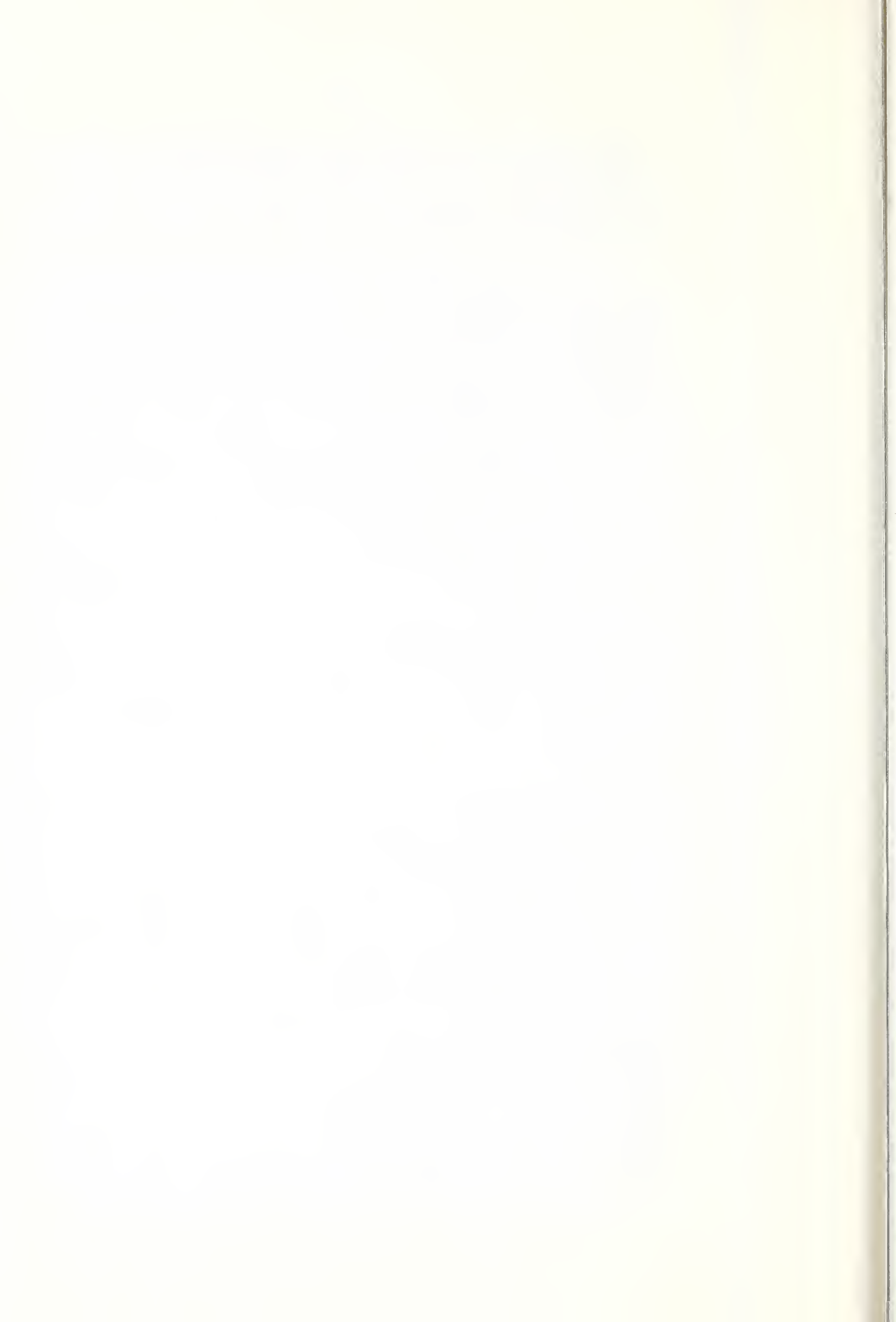
At date of Sept. 1, 1760, under "moving orders," is the following:

"As the army is now going into the inhabitable part of the country, it is ordered that none of the inhabitants be plundered or ill used, on any pretence whatsoever. Whoever is detected disobeying these orders will be hanged. Milk, butter, provision, or anything else must be regularly paid for. This to induce the inhabitants to stay in their villages: and good usage will prevent their men from joining the French army." * * *

At camp before Montreal, on Monday, Sept, 8th, 1760, we find the following:

"Genl. Amherst's Orders, Parole, King George in Canada. The grenadiers and light infantry to parade at the grenadiers' encampment, where they will be joined by a 12 pounder. Col. Haldeman will take command of these corps to take possession of the city of Montreal. The oldest ensign in the army to go in to take charge of the colours. Col. Haldeman will not permit any one to go in or out of town, except the guard and those in public offices and officers of all the departments, for the care of all kinds of stores. A list of names of all these will be given him.

"The General sees with infinite pleasure the success which has crowned the indefatigable efforts of his Majesty's troops and faithful subjects in North America. The Marquis Vaudrial has capitulated; the troops in Canada have laid down their arms, and are not to serve during this war; the whole country submits to the dominion of Great Britain. On this occasion the three armies are all entitled to the general thanks. And the General assures them that he will take the first opportunity of acquainting his Majesty of the zeal and bravery which has always been exerted by the officers and soldiers of the regular and provincial troops, and also by his faithful Indian allies. The General is confident, that when the troops are informed this country is the King's, they will not disgrace themselves by the least appearance of inhumanity, or by an unsoldierly behaviour in



taking any plunder,—that the Canadians, who now become British subjects, may feel the good effects of his Majesty's protection."

Col. John Whitcomb, from whose orderly book the above extracts were taken, served, from fifteen to twenty years afterward, in the Revolutionary armies. His residence, when at home in Bolton, was at the East end; and he was proprietor, or one of the proprietors, of the lime-kiln. From him it was handed down to his descendants, one of whom was 'Squire Edwin A. Whitcomb, the last who applied it to any use. Many years afterwards lime from other parts of the country could be got out at so much less expense, the working of the Bolton rock was discontinued.

[K. Page 19.]

Mr. Goss, as is mentioned in the address, was dismissed in 1771. Some of our readers will like to know the "conclusion of the whole matter." After the dismissal, Mr. Longley, the constable, was instructed (probably by advice of legal counsel) to prohibit him from going into the meeting-house; and "on the succeeding Lord's day by violence did prevent him from entering the desk." This done, Mr. Goss then said that "he should continue his labors in the gospel as usual, that those of his friends who wished to hear him might proceed to his house, that he should keep on preaching as heretofore." He had built and was then living in the house since occupied by Generals Silas and Amory Holman. After the dismissal, and being forbidden the use of the desk at the meeting-house, he held forth, Sunday after Sunday, in his own house; a considerable minority following him thither, while the major part of the old congregation occupied the meeting-house, and listened to the ministrations of the Rev. Mr. Walley.

The manuscript from which we have derived the greater part of these facts, ends with this sentence: "Bolton church was the first to withstand the power supposed to be vested in the clergy; thus did triumph the true principles of liberty in ecclesiastical affairs."

But it was a triumph purchased with a price, and that no small one, as our narrative shows. The movement was altogether in advance of the times, and was too audacious and high-handed a measure to be passed over lightly and without signal marks of reprobation. Accordingly, the neighboring ministers, sympathizing with Mr. Goss, refused Bolton church members permission to come to the communion table in their churches; and in every way, so far as their power extended, and it was not very limited in those days, sought to excommunicate them. The controversy, for its day, was a noted one, and several pamphlets, advocating the views of one side or the other, were published. Many of these pamphlets, we are told, are in the libraries both at Harvard and Yale.

The law-suits for the recovery of Mr. Goss's salary, protracted year after year, lasted, carried on by his executors and heirs, till some time



after his death. We have spoken of the handsome Latin inscription on his tombstone. There are some who would like to see a translation. We subjoin one :

"Sacred to the memory of Rev. Thomas Goss, A. M., Pastor of the church among the Boltonians, who for upwards thirty-nine years, having exercised the sacred office, departed this life Jan. 17th, 1780, in the 63d year of his age. A man adorned with piety, hospitality, friendliness and other virtues both public and private : somewhat broken in body, but endowed with wonderful fortitude : he was the first among the clergy in these unhappy times to be grievously persecuted for boldly opposing those who were striving to overturn the prosperity of the churches, and for heroically struggling to maintain the ecclesiastical polity which was handed down by our ancestors. Friends erected this monument."

See "Sermon (text and notes) on the Termination of Fifty Years of his Ministry, Jan. 31, 1836," by Dr. Bancroft, of Worcester.

See "The Worcester Association and its Antecedents: a History of Four Ministerial Associations, &c.," by Dr. Allen, of Northborough (1868).

See, also, pamphlets before referred to.

See a MSS. Account of the Goss Difficulties, by S. S. Houghton, of Bolton.

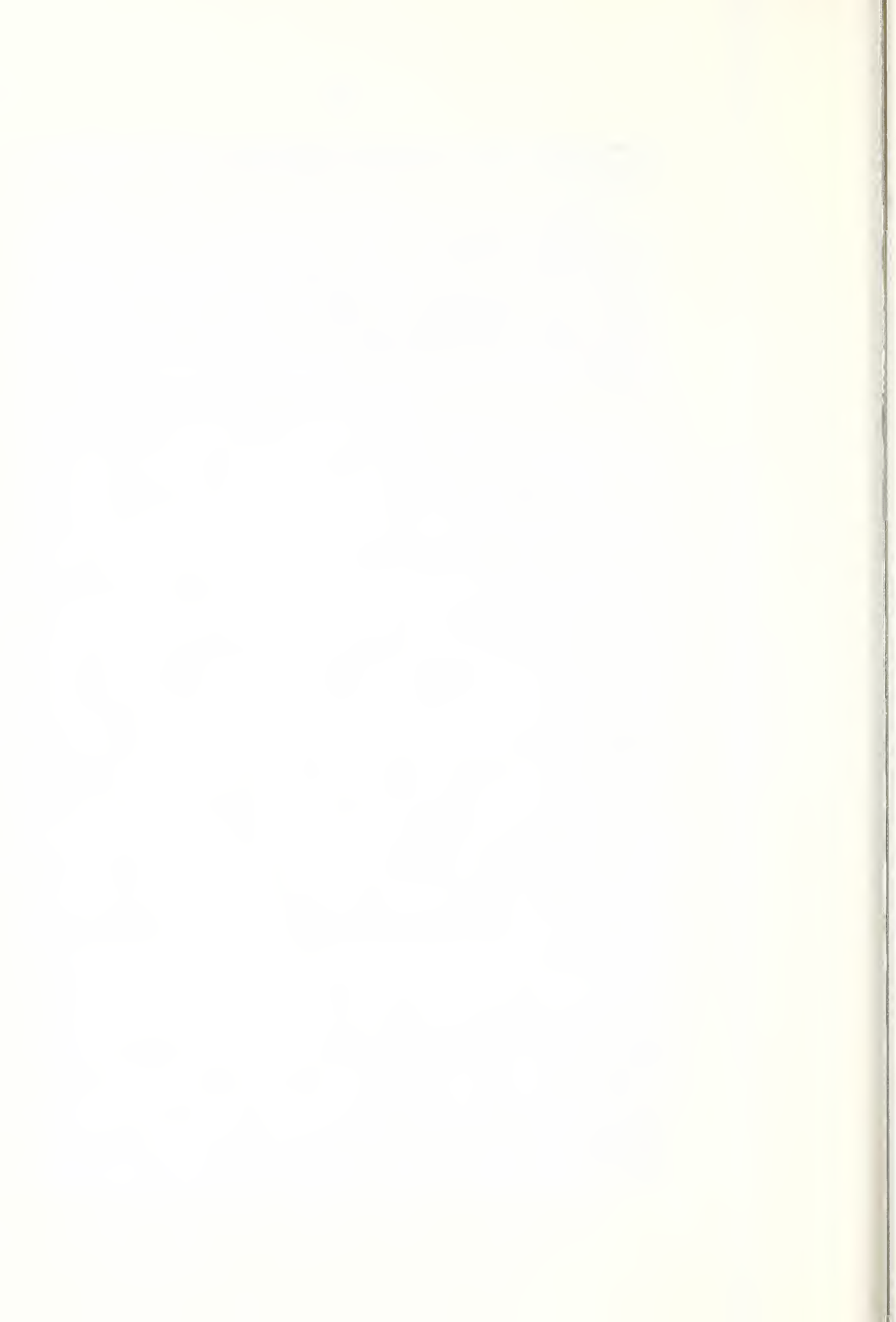
See Sabine's Royalists of the American Revolution.

After the death of Mr. Goss, and Mr. Walley had resigned his pulpit and left the place, in September, 1783, a call was extended, by the church and parish, to Mr. Levi Whitman (H. U. 1779), to settle with them, "in the work of the gospel ministry." The call was accepted, and preparations made for his ordination, the following churches being invited to constitute the council, viz. : Church in Lancaster, Rev. Mr. Harrington : church in Chelsea, Rev. Mr. Payson : 2d South Church in Boston, Rev. Mr. Everett (father of Hon. Edward Everett) : 3d church in Bridgewater, Rev. Mr. Angier : 2d church in Pembroke, Rev. Mr. Hitchcock : West Church in Boston, Rev. Mr. Howard : church in Harvard, Rev. Mr. Grosvenor : church in Stow, Rev. Mr. Newell : the 2d church in Bolton (now Berlin), Rev. Mr. Puffer. But Mr. Whitman's health was so much impaired as not to allow of his being settled, and he never became a citizen of the town.

[L. Page 19.]

In prosecuting inquiries, some weeks after the Centennial celebration, we learned, from several sources, that the following persons belonging to Bolton served during the War of the Revolution :—

Oliver Barrett (lieutenant, and ancestor of the Barretts on Long Hill) was at the Concord fight ; Benjamin Bailey, William Bigelow, Benjamin Hastings, Abraham Houghton, Jonas Houghton (afterwards major), Jonathan Houghton, Joseph Houghton, Carter Knight, Nathaniel Longley



(captain), Dr. Abraham Moore (surgeon), Sewell Moore, Haven Newton, David Nourse (captain), Benjamin Sawyer, William Sawyer, Jonas Welsh, John Whitcomb (colonel), Israel Woodbury.

Among receipts, orders for marching and for money, and other scraps found among the papers of Capt. David Nourse (which were kindly loaned us by his grandson, D. J. Nourse), were lists of names of men who served under his command. There are several of these lists — too many to be copied. We give as a specimen the following:—

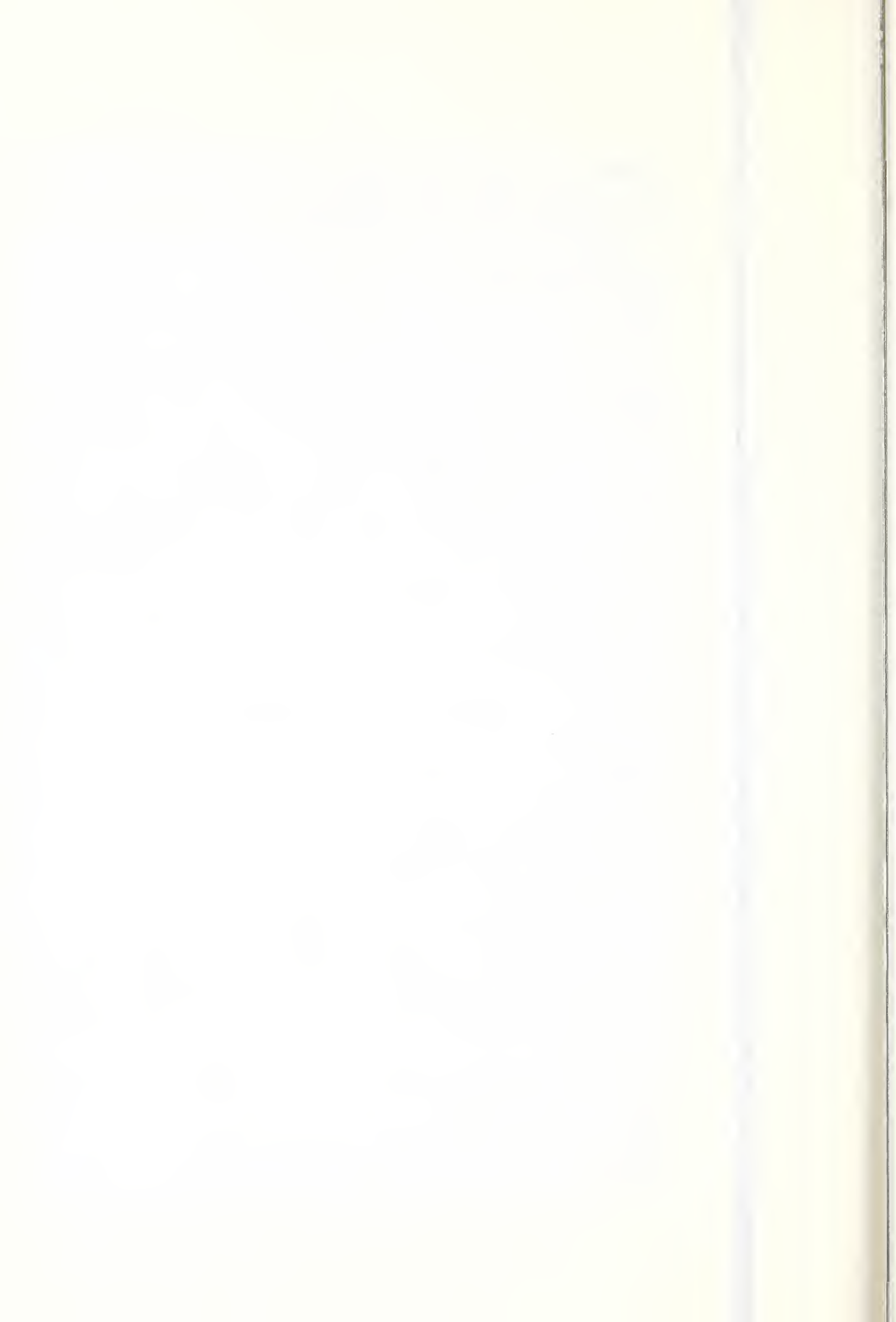
“The Men that I was called to pay money to in May, 1777 (not signed or dated, but in Capt. Nourse’s handwriting): Amos Meriam, Abijah Pratt, Joshua Johnson, David Rice, Samuel Rice, Nathan Jones, Isaiah Coolidge, Isaiah Bruce, Elijah Foster, Ammeziah Knight, John Nurse, Jonathan Nurse, John Powers, Silas Howe, Silas Houghton, Barnabus Bayley, Samuel Stanhope, Jonathan Moore, Thomas Pollard, Thadeus Russell, Eleazer Johnson, Timothy Bailey, Hezekiah Gibbs, Jr., Jabez Fairbank, Nathan Johnson, Benjamin Bruce, Joshua Hemenway, Samuel Jones, Jr., James Townsend, Jonathan Meriam, David Rice, Fortunatus Barnes, James Fife, Jr.”

There are other lists, with other names in them, for which see Bolton books (volume lettered “Births,” page 193, and following). The above list is the largest one. Among the collection of old papers referred to are some which seem to show that “bounty jumping” and procuring of substitutes were not arts which had to be learned at a later day. Such as the following:—

“Jos. How and Eliakim Atherton received £30, lawful money, for negro servant named York, enlisted and passed before James Barrot of Concord, for three years in Capt. Ashley’s company in Col. Badeson’s regiment, Continental army — said York to do a turn for Bolton in Continental army. Waltham, May 2d, 1777.”

We find that this “doing a turn” for others was not of very infrequent occurrence. To find in what ways the “Continental” soldiers received their pay, take receipts like this: “For whole amount in full of our Continental wages, mileage, money home, sauce-money, and also our prize money, for service in the winter campaign beginning Dec. 13th, 1776, ending March 26th, 1777, belonging to Capt. David Nurse’s company of militia, in Col. Josiah Whitney’s regiment, of the State of Massachusetts in New England,” so much and so much. For these and many other interesting and curious papers, we again refer as above, or to the originals, which ought to be deposited among the archives of some of our public libraries.

An almanac of the year 1776, in a good state of preservation, is among the papers we have mentioned. Its title page is as follows: “Astronomical Diary and Almanac for the Year of the Christian Era, 1776. By Nathaniel Low, Massachusetts Bay. Printed by Isaiah Thomas, in Worcester, B. Edes in Watertown, and S. & E. Hall in Cambridge. Price 6 coppers single, and 20 shillings the dozen.” It contains “An Address to



the Soldiers of the American Army," signed by Nathaniel Low, dated at Ipswich, Sept. 22d, 1775; and also "An Account of the Commencement of Hostilities between Great Britain and America, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay; by the Rev. Mr. William Gordon, of Roxbury, in a letter to a Gentleman of England." The article gives a detailed account of the stores destroyed at Concord.

[M. Page 26.]

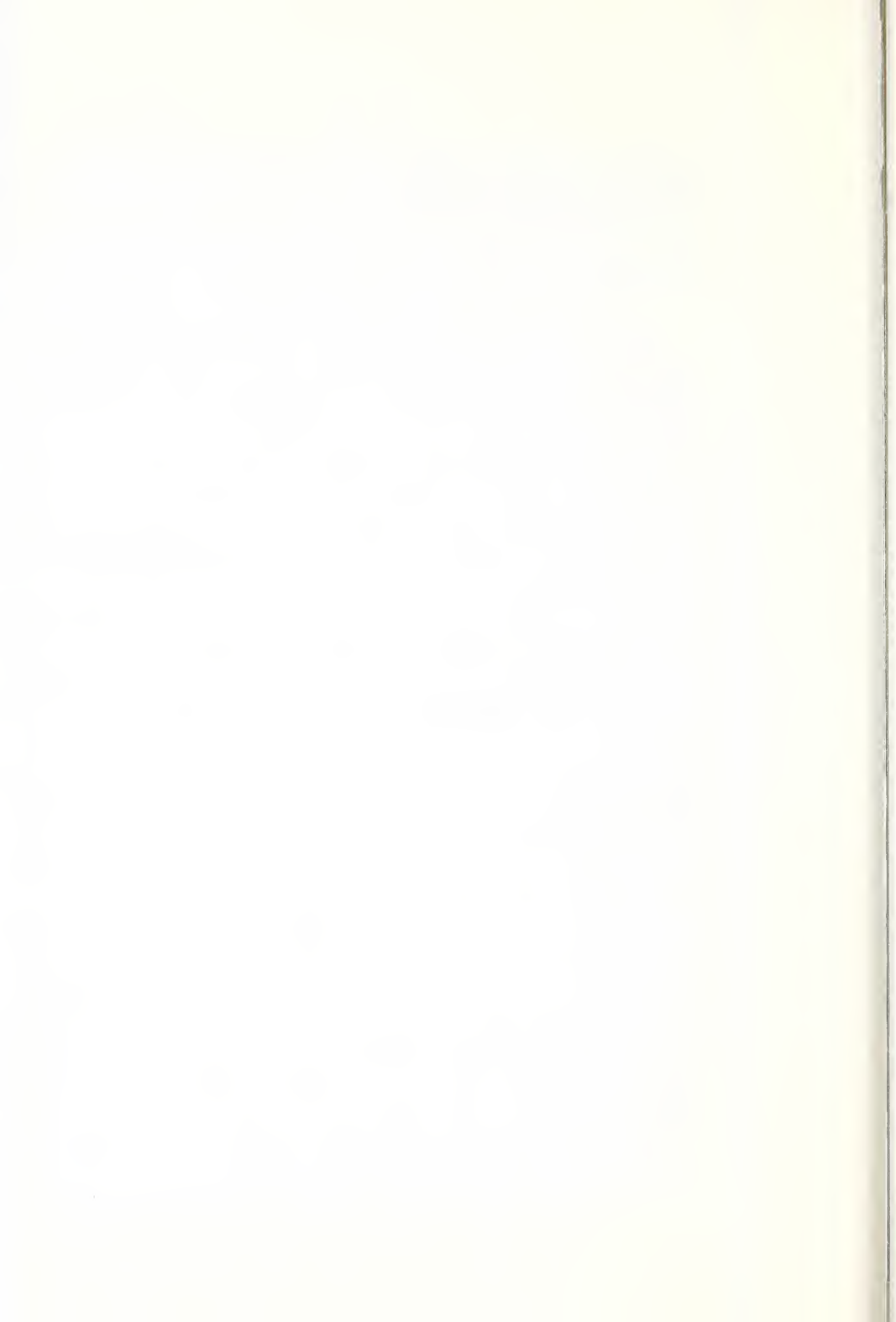
Berlin (formerly a district of Bolton) was incorporated as District of Berlin in March, 1784; as a town, Feb. 6th, 1812. It did not form a separate religious society until after the Goss troubles in Bolton. See Berlin Centennial Exercises, and Address of Rev. W. A. Houghton, in Clinton Courant for July 8th, 1876.

Clinton, now a wealthy and flourishing town, engaged in various kinds of manufacture, such as carpet weaving, wire-cloth making, the gingham fabric, &c., was taken from Lancaster, named after DeWitt Clinton, and incorporated in March, 1850. It adjoins Bolton on the south-west, and is connected with it by good roads. After the first start, it rapidly outstript Lancaster, the mother town, and other purely agricultural towns in its vicinity.

Hudson, which touches Bolton on the south-east, a flourishing town, employing many of the Bolton people, male and female, in its factories, for the most part engaged in the shoe manufacture, was taken mainly from Marlborough, and incorporated in March, 1866. But, in the spring of 1868, about two square miles of the most populous and best tax-paying portion of Bolton, was annexed to it. Till the presidential election of 1876, the inhabitants of the annexed portion continued to vote in this town in State and United States elections. The town is now wholly within Middlesex county. Its close proximity is in most respects a great advantage to Bolton, in others an injury. Like Clinton, it is connected with this place by excellent roads.

In the first part of the address, mention is made of the "Bay Road," which "wound its slow length" over Long Hill as well as over Wattoquotoc, and was the principal thoroughfare to Lancaster, on the one side, and to the lower towns and Boston, on the other. At what time it became disused and a considerable portion of it discontinued, does not precisely appear. As the "lay of the land" was more studied, however, and engineering experience increased, it was seen to be unnecessarily winding and long, as well as needlessly hilly; and it was abandoned for the much more level, more short and convenient road which now traverses the middle of the town. That, too, in its turn, has been two or three times straightened in certain portions, since its first construction.

Within the first quarter of the present century, a new road connecting the town with the North Village of Lancaster was constructed, and run



many years, by a corporation, as a turnpike road. For a series of years, it was much traveled and paid good dividends. But with the introduction of railroads, and the great change in the traffic through this town which followed, its value as a turnpike speedily dwindled, and it was thrown open as one of the public highways. For convenience merely, it still retains with many its old name of "Lancaster turnpike."

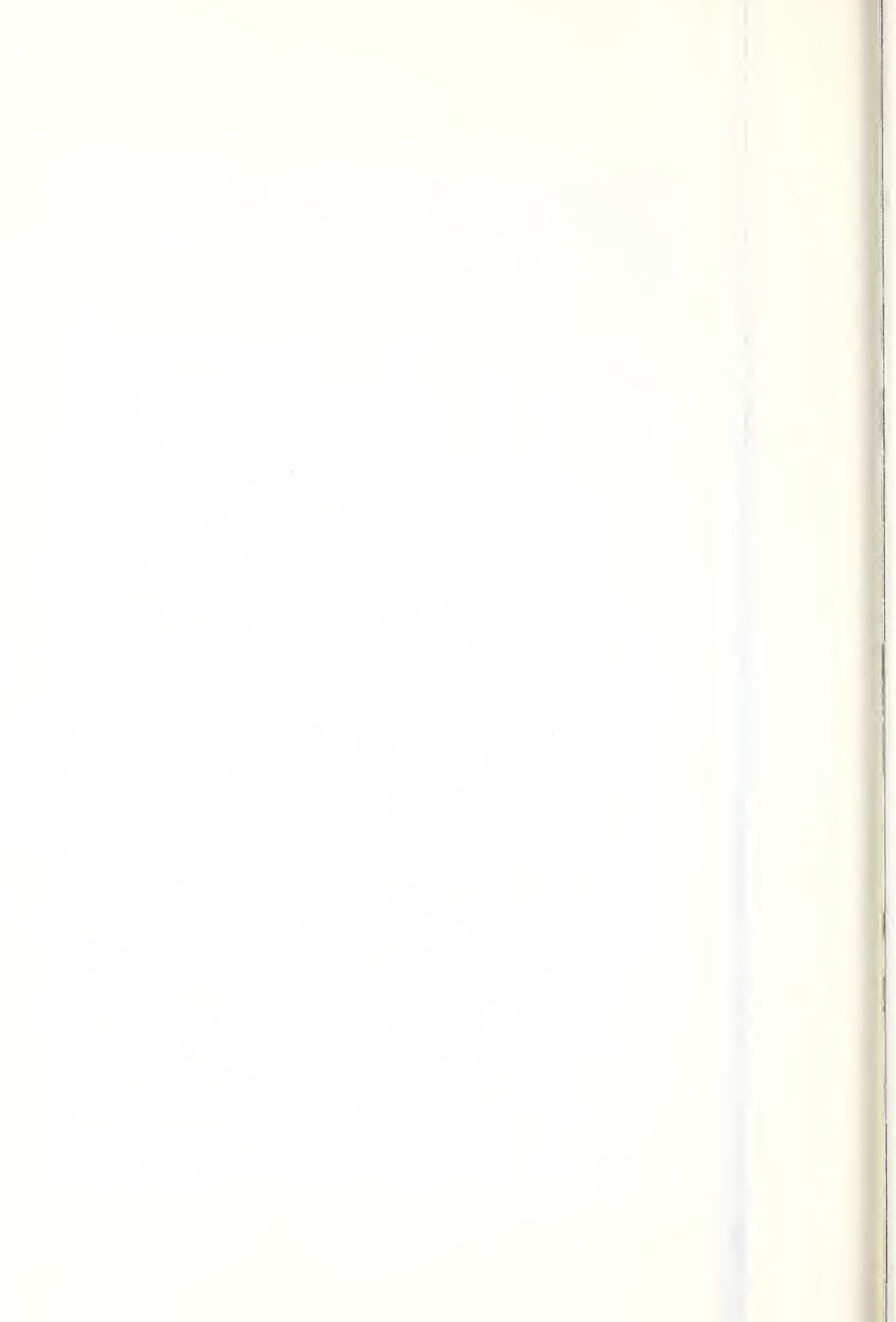
With the springing up into importance of the new town of Clinton, with the construction of the Boston, Clinton & Fitchburg railroad, and the improvement of some of the fine farms on Wattoquotoc Hill for residences of wealth and elegance, it was perceived that the old, narrow, precipitous, rocky and crooked road over that elevation, would no longer answer. Accordingly, about 1867, a new road was made over that hill, connecting by a much shorter route Bolton centre with the B. C. & F. railroad station, and the village of Clinton. Said road was well engineered, and though it surmounts a quite lofty summit, the ascents and descents on both inclines are graded and easy. It is one of the most picturesque roads in the country, conducting through some of the most lovely scenery in New England, and situations for summer resorts must ultimately be in much request on or near its route. S. H. Howe, Esq., has occupied one of the most eligible of these, for some years. Mr. Thomas S. Brackett, now of Still River; Mr. Daniel S. Bryant, since of California, Mr. Dwight Boyden, first landlord of the Tremont House in Boston, and several others had owned and occupied the place previously.

In 1808, as appears from the papers and documents to which reference has two or three times been made, a Fourth of July celebration was held in town; the only one of which we have heard mention made, or at least the only one in which the whole town participated, and at which they had a regular "oration," in the approved canonical fashion which was formerly observed. The oration was printed, and the title page reads thus: "An Oration delivered at Bolton, July 4th, 1808. By Abijah Bigelow, Counsellor at Law." Its motto is, "Be mindful of your ancestors, for the example they have left you calls for your utmost ardour." This oration was "published by request." To indicate its quality, we give one quotation:

"The preservation of a blessing requires as much care, as much wisdom, as great exertions as the attainment: * * * as well might we commit the Constitution to the flames, as to the hands of ignorant and unprincipled men."

We avail of the opportunity furnished by this note to add several items which will be of interest to some of our readers.

In 1854, or thereabouts, it was found expedient to have the old registration records of births, marriages and deaths sorted out, arranged in alphabetical order, and copied. By vote of the town, the work of arrang-



ing and copying was accordingly done: and our books of the kind referred to can now be used as readily and easily as a dictionary.

The war of 1812, with Great Britain, was very unpopular, we learn, in all this region. Nobody was willing to volunteer to serve in it. There was, however, a draft made: and the result was that Mr. Elbridge Sawyer, father of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Joshua Elbridge Sawyer, and the late Mr. Asa Houghton, were drafted, and afterwards served several months as soldiers in one of the forts of Boston harbor. So unused had our people become to anything of the kind, that the drafting caused, we have been told, great commotion, which did not readily subside.

One of our most popular and useful institutions is the Farmers' Club, started about 25 or 30 years ago. It is now in a highly effective and prosperous condition: and has done not a little in reviving an agricultural and horticultural interest throughout the town, and in promoting housewifery operations, as well as farming improvement. It has held three fairs and cattle shows, at which the displays of live stock, fruit, and needle-work altogether exceeded expectations. On these occasions, there were public dinners, at which addresses were made by popular speakers interested in agricultural affairs. By these means and others, an impulse has been given to all matters relating to rural economy and progress, that probably will not soon subside.

Another enterprise, in a somewhat different direction, has also met with good success, viz.: the Fish Club, an organization formed for stocking what considerable fresh water ponds there are in town, with improved varieties of fish. This association has been in existence now about three years, and has competently stocked Little Pond and West's Pond (the one a little under and the other a little over twenty acres in extent) with black bass. These fish in our ponds—it is said by those who have taken observations—have increased in numbers, are in good condition, and in fulness of time are expected to make a sizeable yield for the frying-pan.

Nor have we been without our associations for mental and spiritual improvement. Not to mention various temperance organizations which have existed at different times, lyceums, debating societies—all of which have been fully reported elsewhere, by other ways and means—we will merely record that there have been formed in town, in years past, clubs gathered for the express purpose of taking together publications of the day of one sort or another. Not one such club—to our knowledge—has failed in its objects, though some of them have been dissolved in course of time by death of members, their removal from town, and like causes. One such club, taking quite a number of our best magazines and periodicals, is now in existence, and is doing well.

One other topic touched upon in a former note, we must return to for a moment before we pass on to something else, viz.: Lancaster railroad. Begun in the early spring of '71, Lancaster R. R. was brought nearly to



completion in the fall of '73. Then, owing to the alleged illegality of certain proceedings, it was driven into bankruptcy by a number of its creditors; and there, through the years '74, '75, '76, and thus far into April or May, '77, it has lain. Certain arrangements being made and papers signed, and the road released from bankruptcy, it was hoped, this spring, our eyes would be gladdened by the renewal of work upon it, and by its being opened for travel and traffic. The spring is passing away, the summer is near at hand, and that hope is not realized. But our note M has already far exceeded the limits intended for it, and we must pass to other topics.

[N. Page 27.]

Rev. John Walley, the second minister established in their pulpit by the town, was great-grandson to Rev. Thomas Walley, one of the early ministers of Barnstable; and his grandfather, Major John Walley, took an active part in the expedition against Canada in 1690. Mr. Walley, born Oct. 6, 1716, graduated at Harvard College 1734, married Elizabeth Appleton, but had no children: preached at Portsmouth, N. H.—not as settled minister—in 1744; was ordained in Ipswich in Nov., 1747, and remained there till Feb., 1764; after which, preached for the French Huguenots in Boston, till called to settle in Bolton, in June, 1773; where he remained till he left early in 1783. He died in Roxbury, March, 1784. His will, by which he left, "as a token of his love to the congregation in Bolton," a small legacy, the income of which was to be devoted to the purchase of bibles—leaving a similar one to the parish at Ipswich—is recorded in Suffolk Registry of Probate, Liber 84.

He was succeeded by Rev. Phineas Wright, born in Westford, June, 1747; graduated with the first honors of his class, at Harvard College, in 1772; ordained here Oct. 36, 1785. Rev. Dr. Cummings, of Billerica, preaching the sermon; married, May, 1787, Susanna, daughter of Rev. John Gardner, of Stow; but he, too, died without leaving any children. His ministry came to an abrupt termination by a paralytic stroke, in Dec. 1802. See Allen's History of the Worcester Association, &c.

We find on record the following:

"At a regular meeting of the Church of Christ in Bolton, held at the meeting-house on the 30th of January, 1803, voted unanimously to set apart a day for fasting and prayer, to humble ourselves before God, under the rebuke of Divine Providence in the sudden removal of our late beloved pastor by death: and to supplicate the divine blessing, that in due time we may have an able and faithful minister of Christ, provided and set over us in the Lord, and that we may continue in peace and harmony, and be preserved in Christian affection among ourselves."

Rev. Nathaniel Thayer was invited to preach the sermon at the proposed fast: and Rev. Reuben Puffer of Berlin, and Rev. Stephen Bemis of Harvard, "to join in the services of the day." Mrs. Wright, on the



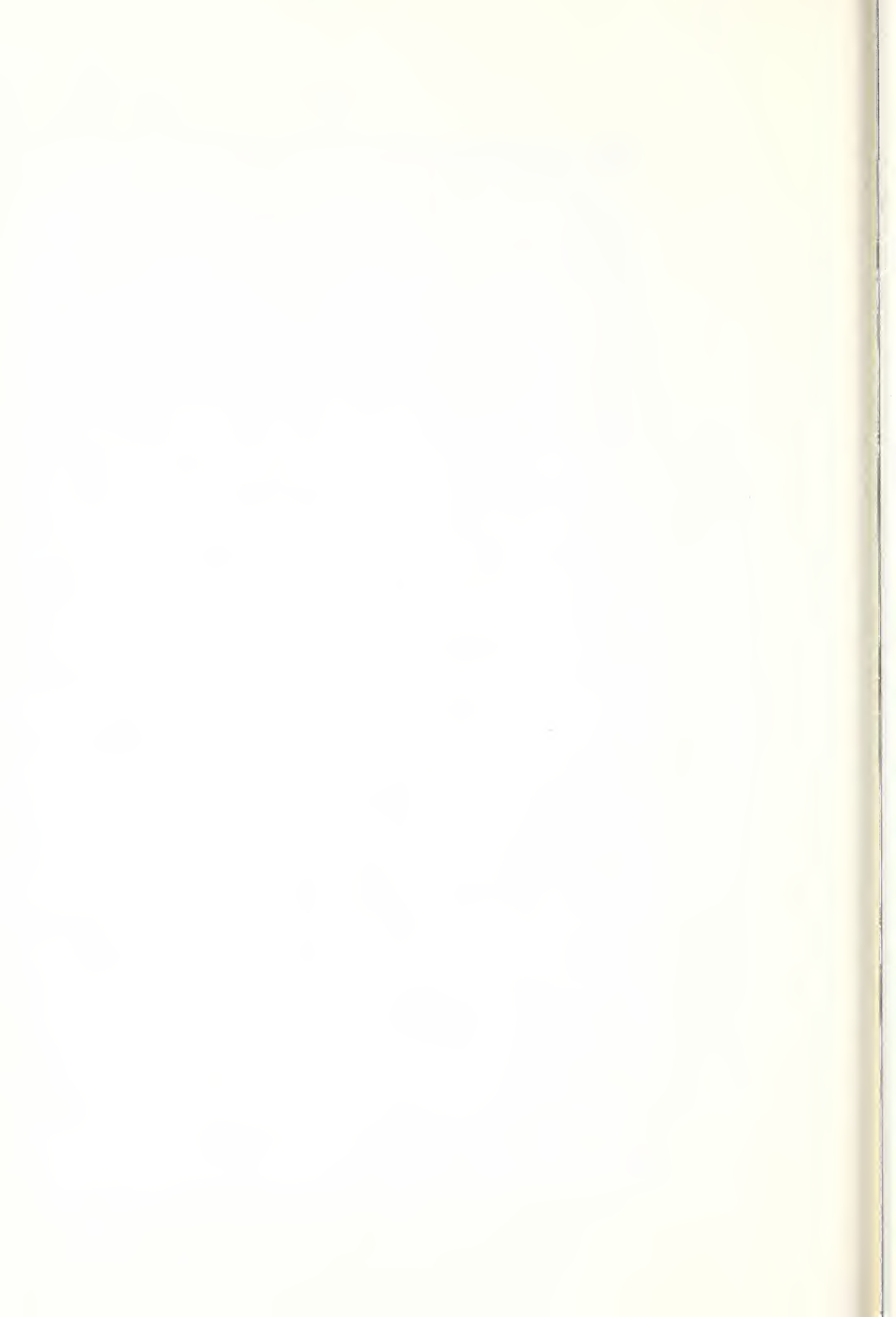
death of her husband, did not leave town, but lived with his successor in the ministry till her death.

Rev. Isaac Allen, born in Weston, 1771, graduated at Harvard College in 1798, was the successor; and was ordained here March 14th, 1804, at a time when there was an immense body of snow on the ground, and the travelling was difficult and dangerous. Rev. Dr. Kendall of Weston preached the sermon at his ordination. By an accidental fall on the ice, when a boy, he was a cripple, having ever afterwards a dislocated, and at times very painful, hip; and he remained always a bachelor. He was, however, a person of remarkably even and cheerful temperament; of lively wit, excelling in repartee; of sound common sense; competently, but not deeply, versed in the lore of his profession; and, though frugal in his habits, spending very little money for books or in any other way, one of the most kind hearted and hospitable of men. His benefactions in humble but very efficient ways were numerous: such as loaning money to young men that needed it, giving small sums to repair roads, or to extend schools. By these means, by his constant activity and never failing sympathy, as well as by his ministrations in the pulpit, he had here, on the whole, a happy ministry. He died in March, 1844, a few days over the fortieth anniversary of his settlement: leaving the whole of his property, real and personal, amounting to about \$20,000, excepting one or two small gifts to others, to the parish "of which he had so long been minister."

Mr. Allen's successors in the ministry of the First Parish were as follows: Richard S. Edes, B. U., 1830. Camb. Div. School 1834 (previously settled at Eastport, Maine), from the spring of 1843 to the winter 1848: John J. Putnam, of Chesterfield, N. H. (previously settled at Lebanon, N. H.), from Sept., '49, to June, '52, afterwards of Petersham and Bridgewater: Thomas T. Stone, D. D., Bowd. College 1820 (for several years in the Orthodox ministry at Andover and East Machias, Maine, and in the Unitarian ministry at Salem), from 1852 to 1860: Nathaniel O. Chaffee, Meadville Theo. School, ordained at Montague, and settled in Bolton about two years: Edwin C. L. Browne, Meadville Theo. School 1861, ordained at Bolton, April 1863, and remaining here about six years, afterwards in the ministry at Keokuk, Iowa, and at Charleston, S. C., where he still resides: Ezekiel Fitz Gerald, Tufts College (once of Shirley Village, afterwards of Chelmsford and Montague), here from two to three years: and lastly, ^{L. & O. V.} Nathaniel P. Gilman, Camb. Div. School 1871 (some time minister at Scituate), who is the present pastor.

[O. Page 28.]

The Hillside Church was organized in April, 1830, with a membership of eighteen males, eighteen females. It was in the contemplation of the principal mover in this religious enterprise to bring together a congrega-



tion from five towns, viz.: Berlin, Bolton, Lancaster, Harvard and Stow. While the novelty and first enthusiasm lasted, he was entirely successful. The spot chosen for a church edifice was a fine one, and the octagon structure erected on it was a sightly, as well as a most convenient one, having all appliances of rooms, closets, boxes and drawers for holding luncheon and articles of clothing, such as were not often found in churches of that day. In summer and pleasant weather, the rides on the Sabbath to and from service, over good roads and through the lovely landscape, must have been delightful; but in winter and foul weather, just the reverse. As stated in the address, after some years trial of the plan, and the settlement of four pastors, viz., J. W. Chickering, D. D., Mr. Peabody, Mr. Davenport, Henry Adams (Mr. Wilder in the meantime having sold his place, and retired to another state), it was abandoned. Dr. Chickering was afterwards for several years pastor of a church on High street, Portland, and Mr. Adams went into the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the West.

The new Baptist church, to which reference was made, was dedicated in 186-, during the ministry of Rev. Kilburn Holt. The ministers of that society were as follows: Elder Goddard, 1832-6; Levi M. Powers, 1836; Isaac C. Carpenter, 1843; John Walker, 1814; P. S. Whitman, 1846; Asaph Meriam, 1868; W. K. Davey, B. U., 1856; J. H. Giles, from England, 1858; J. H. Learned, 1860; Kilburn Holt, Colby University 1863; Joseph Barber, 1868; Benj. A. Edwards, B. U., the present minister.

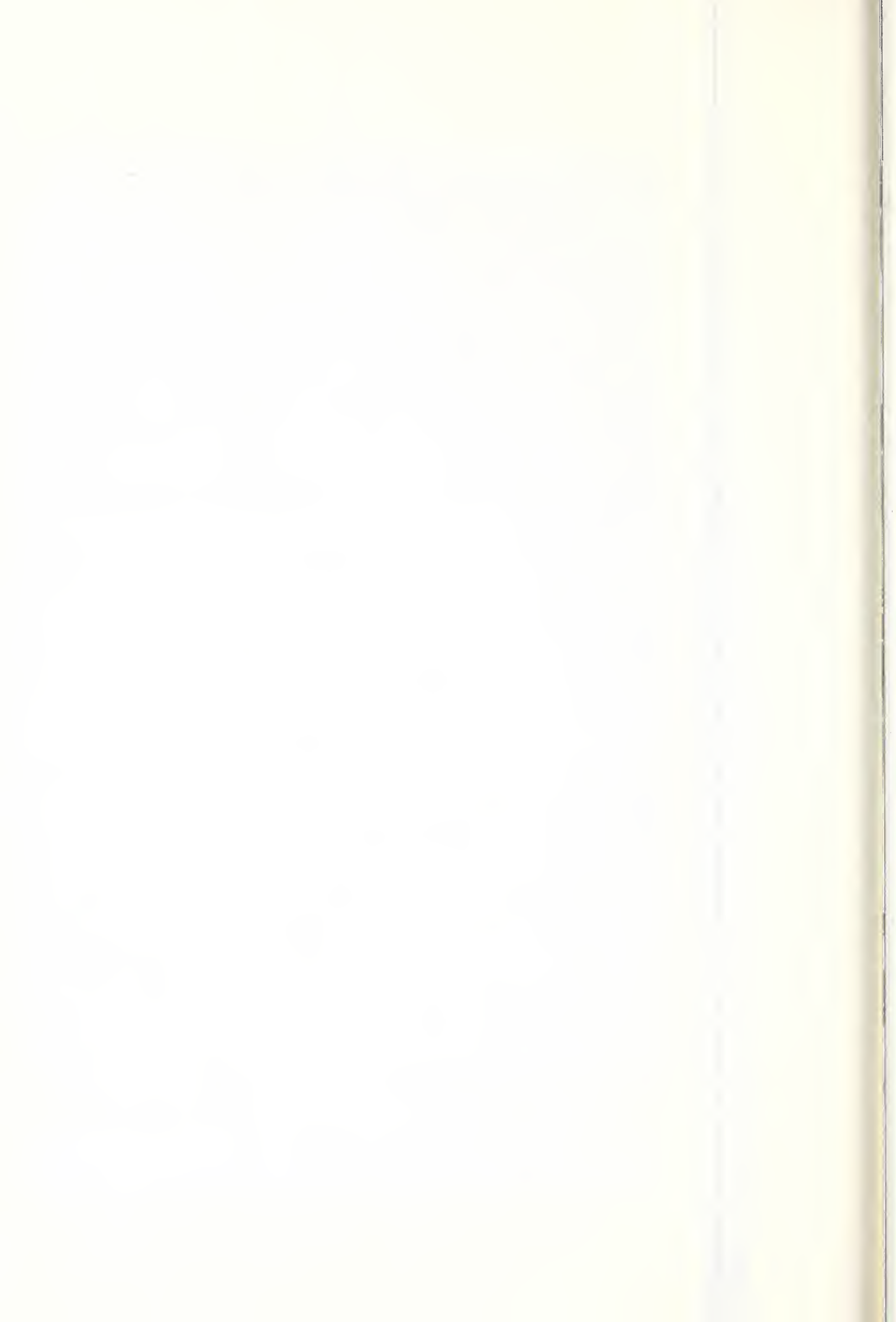
[P. Page 28.]

The Friends of this locality reside for the most part, in the towns of Bolton and Berlin, forming to a certain extent a community by themselves; but they by no means isolate themselves from their fellow-citizens of the town or state. They take as great an interest in general public measures as do others; and some of their members are, and have been in former times, among the most active and leading men in town meetings.

The Bolton society—previously organized before then, as it appears, as a "Preparative Meeting," containing twenty-two families and about one hundred and thirty members, and "having a meeting-house and school-house near it"—was erected, we gather from their records—into a "Monthly Meeting" in April, 1799. Their first acknowledged ministers were Thomas Holder, Sarah Holder, Thomas Watson, and Abel Houghton; their elders, John Frye, Lydia Gates. Others, male and female, too many for mention, from that day down to this.

[Q. Page 29.]

The members of the Methodist society commenced their meetings, assembling at the town hall in Bolton, about 1859-60. They had full at-



tendance, but their paying members were few. Warren C. Brown, a young man of promise, was their minister, and the spirit prevailing was excellent. Mr. Brown, however, sickening and dying of pulmonary consumption, after a residence here of about two years, the society disbanded, and is now scattered into other societies of this or other towns.

[R. Page 29.]

History The physicians, who have made Bolton their home, and practised here, were — so far as can now be recalled — Dr. John Barnard, at about the period of the Revolution: Dr. Abraham Moore, who served in the Revolutionary armies: Dr. Levi Sawyer: Dr. Amos Parker: Dr. Leonard, since of East Boston: Dr. Hall Davis, who served during the late war, first as "contract surgeon," afterwards as surgeon in 38th U. S. colored troops: Dr. Winsor H. Bigelow, who also served as assistant surgeon in the 32d Massachusetts, being present at Antietam and Fredericksburg: Dr. Ambrose Eames, who was private in a Massachusetts regiment during the war, but came here as a practitioner two or three years afterwards, on decease of Dr. Bigelow. There were other physicians, we believe, who resided here for a time, but their stay here was so short that no trace of them was left on our books.

[S. Page 29.]

The town, throughout its whole history, has been highly fortunate in the teachers it has had. To say nothing of those from among its own citizens, who have met with as good success as any, such as the Fries, the late Thomas, his sons John E., Thomas E. and his daughter Mary Ann: the Barretts, the Holmans, the Jewetts, the Sawyers, and among ladies the Misses Barnard, Brigham, Newton, Nourse, Parker, Osborne, Sawyer, Whitcomb, and many more, of whom it was impossible to keep record: we may mention, among those who tried their "prentice hand" in our schools, two presidents of Harvard, the late Jared Sparks and the late C. C. Felton: and others afterwards distinguished as educationists, or in professional life, such as George B. Emerson, afterwards head of a school for young ladies, the best perhaps Boston has ever had: Squire Wood, a well known lawyer and politician, late of Fitchburg: Rev. Nathaniel Whitman: Rev. Nathaniel Gage: Judge Henry Chapin of Worcester: John A. Goodwin of Lowell, a few years ago Speaker of the House — a list that might be extended, but we remember what else remains to be said, and forbear.

Our list of Houghton School teachers, however, which has been carefully kept, we will copy, as it is one which many will like to preserve for reference. Those marked thus * deceased:



1. Edward B. Chamberlin, Univ. Vermont, afterwards clergyman.
2. Henry F. Munroe, H. U., afterwards teacher in Hingham, and at the West.
3. *Moses Burlbank, Waterville Col., afterwards superintendent of schools in Vermont.
4. Geo. W. Chamberlin, Univ. Ver., lawyer, subsequently, in one of the Western states.
5. Phineas Allen, H. U., a teacher the most of his life.
6. John M. Rice, Bridgewater Norm. School and B. S. Harv. Scientific School, professor afterwards at U. S. Naval Acad. at Annapolis.
7. Warren T. Copeland, Bridgewater Normal School, a professional teacher.
8. William H. Swift, Williams College, teacher afterwards in Pittsfield.
9. Henry Stone, Bowd. Col., clergyman, during war confidential clerk on staff of late Major Gen. Thomas, and now in office of the Railroad Gazette, New York city.
10. David Bentley, Bridgewater Norm. School, professional teacher.
11. Thomas Sherwin, Jr., H. U., during war adjutant and then colonel of Mass. 22d. During his administration the war broke out, and he and several of his scholars enlisted. Now Collector of city of Boston.
12. Henry S. Nourse, H. U., afterwards adjutant in the war and commissary of musters in U. S. Vols.
13. Minot G. Gage, H. U., afterwards clergyman at Nashua, N. H., and Gloucester, Cape Ann.
14. Frederick L. Hosmer, H. U., since clergyman at Northboro', and Quincy, Ill.
15. Edwin T. Horne, H. U., since teacher in Boston (Dorchester Dist.).
16. Stephen W. Clarke, Dart. Col., since teacher in Portsmouth, N. H.
17. *Henry L. Colby, Dart. Col., died soon after leaving town.
18. *Addison Gilbert Smith, H. U., professional teacher.
19. Sidney A. Phillips, Dart. Col., now lawyer at South Framingham.
20. Geo. L. Chandler, Bowd. Col., since tutor in Bowd. College.
21. Edwin R. Coburn, Dart. Col., now law-student in Boston.
22. Theodore C. Gleason, H. U., since clergyman.
23. Samuel W. Dollinger, since teacher and law-student.
24. David A. Anderson, Dart. Col., has continued a teacher.
25. Alfred Newell Fuller, H. U., since clergyman.
26. James Frank Savage, Dart. Col., since law-student.
27. Albert Gray, Bowd. Col., now teacher at Northboro'.
28. Frederic S. Cutter, H. U., teacher at date.

[T. Page 30.]

Joseph Houghton, who lived where his son, Quincy A. Houghton, is now living, and who died Nov. 7th, 1847, having bequeathed to the town of Bolton \$12,000 to establish a school "to be kept near the centre of said Bolton, in which such ACADEMICAL INSTRUCTION shall be given as said town shall decide to be most useful," and also "eighty rods of land" (described) on which to build a school-house; and the town having accepted the legacy, and built the school-house as required to do:— a school of the character above indicated, and named after its founder HOUGHTON SCHOOL, went into operation in October, 1849— first in the town hall,



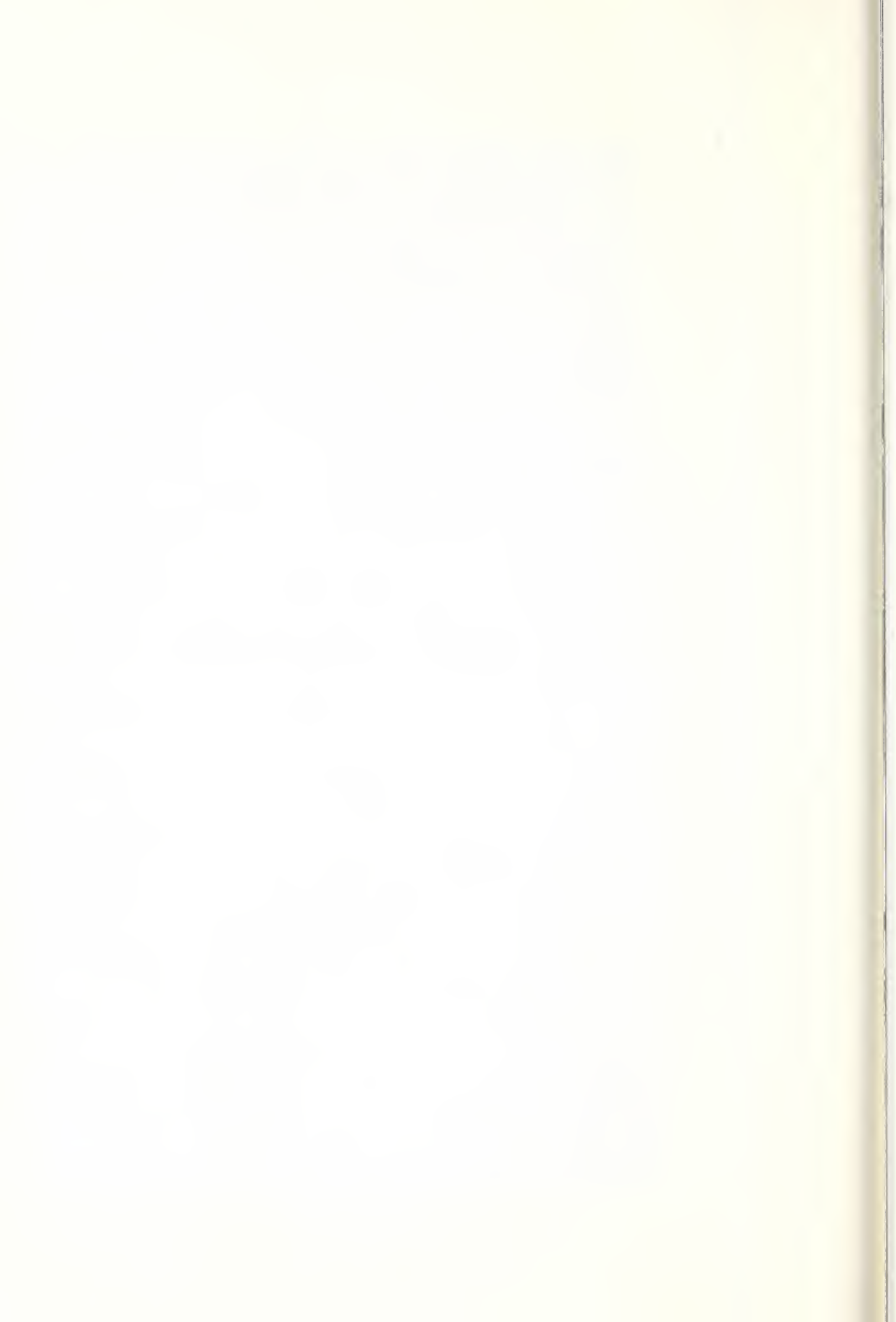
and, shortly afterwards, when the building was ready, and certain questions temporarily disposed of, in the school-house itself. From a journal kept by the teacher and scholars (still extant and portions of it copied into the School Records), it appears that twenty-five scholars, whose names are given, were at the first session, which number was soon added to, and the whole new undertaking was started off with much enthusiasm, and every assurance of success, which expectations were largely realized. There was one unhappy drawback, however. Nine families, named, with their descendants, were excluded, for a century, by the provisions of the testator's will from attending the school. This kept out several very promising scholars then living, whose fathers had been taxed for building the school-house; and would, moreover, produce a condition of things threatening consequences in the coming time much to be deprecated. By an amicable arrangement, the difficulty was adjusted, and the question of the exclusion of the nine families carried before the Supreme Court. That tribunal, after maturely considering the whole matter, hearing the arguments of counsel, &c., &c., decided that the exclusive clauses of the will could not be maintained, and accordingly set them aside, thus opening the school, as a free school, without invidious distinctions, to all properly qualified scholars, children of "*inhabitants*" of the town. Thus commencing, the school has continued to flourish till this time, and its benefits have been enjoyed by a large number of our younger citizens. See Cushing's Reports, volume 8th, page 11th, *Nourse vs. Merriam*. See also full extracts from the will relating to the school, Bolton School Records, page 9th.

[U. Page 30.]

Before the question of establishing a FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY was brought up in town meeting, it had been discussed in private circles for months; and when it was formally introduced for action by the town, it found most voters fully prepared for it, and favorably disposed towards it. To Mr. Henry Jewett, then one of our citizens, but since of Lexington, belongs the credit of introducing the question before the town. "in town meeting assembled." Movement to the effect contemplated at once began; a library was started without delay, and has continued to increase in number of books and in efficiency to this time. It has many users, and has proved a means of improvement and happiness of the highest order.

[V. Page 31.]

Lists of those who served in the last war, or that of 1861-65 — town, state and national lists — have been kept in various forms; and those in future generations making inquiries as to who served, and when and where, and from what places, will be at no difficulty to find out. Every town in the state was required by law to keep its own proper record of volunteers enlisted to its credit, and a book for the purpose was furnished by state



authority. In addition, at the Adjutant General's office, the roster of every regiment in the state service was copied, as many interesting particulars added as could be, the whole with immense labor made as complete as possible, and then printed in two thick 8vo volumes. These books were sent to all the towns, and given the largest circulation. Not to be outdone, the General Government, while the war was still going on, not only established National Cemeteries for interring the bodies of the fallen, but has since published in several volumes, under the general title of "ROLLS OF HONOR," detailed Catalogues of the names of all soldiers whose bodies are known to be buried in any of the cemeteries aforesaid, and along with these to give all the information practicable respecting the numerous graves of "unknown" there to be found. Hereafter, even centuries hence, whoever is looking up facts and dates relating to our recent war will be at no loss where to find them.

[W. Page 32.]

Those who served during the war, to the credit of the town of Bolton, were as follows (the names under each heading being arranged in alphabetical order). The names of those who died during the war, and which are on the tablets in the town hall, are printed in italics:

13th Regiment, in which were those who first went out.—Ezekiel W. Choate, Ledra A. Cooledge, Silas A. Cooledge, *Samuel M. Haynes, Edward A. Houghton, Francis M. Kimmens, Charles McQuillan, Enoch C. Pierce, sergeant, William A. Newhall, *Rolla Nicholas*, Henry Whitcomb, captain, John Thos. Whittier, orderly sergeant. [*Subsequently, soldier from Berlin.]

2d Regiment.—Henry Learned.

15th Regiment.—John Fahee, *Thomas Hastings*, Nelson Pratt, Thos. Sherwin, Jr. (captain of a company, but company disbanded he went into 22d as adjutant: teacher of Houghton School on breaking out of war), John S. Williams, afterwards in 4th cavalry: John Wood.

16th Regiment.—George A. Barnes, *Albert C. Houghton*, Oliver L. Nourse, sergeant.

19th Regiment.—William Stone, major.

20th Regiment.—*Thomas Whitman*.

21st Regiment.—Willard A. Bowers, George E. Burgess, Charles R. Haven, James Kennedy, *Luke Ollis* (claimed and held by Lancaster, his name on Lancaster tablet).

22d Regiment.—*George B. Cook*, *Charles A. Fry*, Joseph S. Hildreth, *Rufus H. Williams* (claimed and held by Berlin, name on Berlin tablets).

23d Regiment.—Amos B. Jarvis.

32d Regiment.—Windsor H. Bigelow, assistant surgeon.

33d Regiment.—*Edward L. Edes*.

36th Regiment.—Henry H. Bartlett, Theodore H. Bartlett, Edwin Barnes, Hiram P. Beane, Reuben Clapp, *Ezra Crocker*, *Franklin Farnsworth*, Andrew J. Houghton, *Josiah Houghton*, Walter Kennedy, John Lake, George H. Patrick, George F. Sawyer, †Joseph H. Sawyer, orderly



sergeant, George H. Thomas, Asahel C. Wetherbee, Henry M. Wetherbee, Reuben L. Wetherbee, George S. Willis, *Elijah H. Woodbury*. [†Died a year or two after the war ended.]

38th Regiment.—*George H. Stone*.

47th Regiment.—Burgess Taylor.

57th Regiment.—James J. McVey, George Willis.

5th Regiment, Co. 1 (Nine Months Men).—*Edmund B. Babcock, F. R. Bennett, †*George I. Corser*, James F. Despeau, Lyman Gibbs, Wm. Gibbs, †Amory S. Haynes, James D. Hurlbut, James Jillson, William H. Larabee, Charles B. Newton, captain, *Francis M. Newton, Andrew L. Nourse, William D. Pierce, †Andrew A. Powers, lieutenant, †John H. Sawyer, sergeant, Isaac C. Stratton, Augustus H. Trowbridge, Charles H. White, Henry Wood, Henry A. Woodbury. [*Reenlisted in 4th Cav., sergeants. †Reenlisted in 2d Heavy Artillery. †Reenlisted in Hundred Days Men.]

5th Regiment, Co. 1 (Hundred Days Men).—Additional names, Joseph A. Bryant, Lyman B. Gates, Christopher C. M. Newton, Amos P. Powers, Stephen F. Smith.

Nim's Battery.—Francis Murphy.

First Heavy Artillery.—Edwin J. Brown, Charles F. Getchell, *Edwin Kilburn Holt*, Baldwin Houghton, Warren Houghton, *Stephen H. Hunting*, Charles W. Nourse, George W. Pratt, Eugene Smith, Francis H. Whitcomb, William W. Wheeler.

Second Heavy Artillery.—*Ibel James Collins*, Edward E. Houghton, Charles B. Newton, George E. Sargent, Charles G. Wheeler.

Third Cavalry, McGee's.—Francis E. Howard.

Fourth Cavalry.—Besides names already mentioned, Waldo E. Kimmens, Joseph L. Marston, Abner M. Nutting, William L. Osgood.

Fifth Cavalry.—*Thornton Hayden*, colored.

Fifth Cavalry, regular U. S. A.—John B. Stanley.

Signal Service.—George Edwin Woodbury, previously in First Cavalry, for Leominster.

Provisional Guards.—Ira A. Dutton.

Thomas Grassie, chaplain, with 108th N. Y. Volunteers; Reuben M. Whitcomb and Charles A. Wheelock, suttlers, with the 36th; Hall Davis, surgeon, 38th U. S. colored troops. Ambrose Eames, 51st Regt., both physicians in Bolton after the war; Mary Eliz. Haynes, nurse in hospitals.

Regular U. S. Navy.—Robert T. Edes, assistant surgeon in Farragut's fleet at New Orleans, in the flag ship "Black Hawk," Com. Porter, on the Mississippi, and passed assistant surgeon on the "Colorado;" John Henry Hapgood, seaman, in the "North Carolina," the "Potomac," and the gunboat "Union."

Volunteer Navy.—Henry Rockwood, assistant surgeon with Farragut's fleet at Mobile, in the "Itasca," the "Monongahela," and the "Pohontas." After the war, physician in Bolton.

N. B.—*John C. Haynes*, 36th; *Luke Ollis*, 21st; claimed by Lancaster, and their names on Lancaster tablet. Charles Wood, Jr., claimed by Harvard. Several now citizens of Bolton served as soldiers in the quotas of other towns.



[X. Page 33.]

The memorial tablets erected in the town hall to the memory of deceased soldiers were dedicated on the evening of Dec. 20th, 1866, with appropriate observances. Solomon H. Howe, Esq., was President of the evening. Prayer was offered by Thomas T. Stone, D. D. Biographical Notices read by R. S. Edes. An Oration delivered by Dr. Geo. B. Loring. A Poem, written by Amos W. Collins, was read by Addison G. Smith, teacher of the Houghton School. Suitable music, including the singing of an original ode by Mrs. Mary D. Whitney of Boston, was performed by the Hudson band, and by a select choir under the direction of H. F. Haynes.

See pamphlet, "Oration delivered at Bolton, Mass., Dec. 20th, 1866, at the Dedication of the Tablets," &c.: 1867, published from the office of the Clinton Courant.

N. B.—To the names of "recent introduction," under note G, add the following: Blood, Bowers, Cook, Graves, Lurkin, Powers, Rich, Sampson. A Blood family in the earlier history of the town: but no member of it has resided here for many years. *Notes*

That no errors or important omissions have crept into the foregoing appendix, is hardly to be expected. It is hoped they are not numerous. Indulgent readers are begged kindly to excuse them, as these sheets were revised under circumstances rendering a careful scrutiny very difficult.

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